

Submitter: Denise LaBuda

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members,

As a resident of Bend, I am asking you to support HB 2138-1.

As Oregon's housing legislation now allows middle housing in most neighborhoods, some barriers to development have remained and need to be rectified. HB 2138-1 will remove or modify these hurdles, allowing more infill and middle housing in every neighborhood.

When people don't have to drive as far or as often because the stores and services they need are close by, we all win. Lower community costs, lower environmental impact, and healthy residents who have more time for friends and family.

I have been involved in efforts to build more infill housing in Bend, only to see many projects not pencil and get abandoned due to infrastructure requirements. This infill housing can allow more individuals and families to live closer to their schools, jobs, and recreational parks.

Key jobs that keep our communities running like teachers, utility workers, medical technicians, and hospitality workers need to have housing that is affordable in the communities they serve, and near their places of work.

And perhaps most critical, as we see most cities in OR move to 25% over the age of 65 by 2035, we need housing for seniors who can live in communities that help them age in place safely and with community medical and social services and supports nearby.

Please help address our affordable housing shortage with the effective approaches included in this bill and pass HB 2138-1. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Humbly

Denise LaBuda