

Submitter: Cassie Wilson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2138

Good afternoon Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and members of the committee,

My name is Cassie Wilson, I'm a resident of Portland, and I'm speaking in support of HB 2138.

I grew up in unincorporated, rural Clackamas County. I love living in Oregon and that we've developed our communities in a way to protect natural areas and farms. This bill would encourage us to continue that pattern by having more options for housing development within Urban Growth Boundaries. It's the type of thoughtful planning that lets us take day trips to the coast or mountain without paving over the places we love.

Accessible housing is hard to come by as a disabled person. When I moved out for the first time last year and was searching for housing, I wanted to stay in Clackamas County. I filtered by accessibility and by my budget and literally every option on the map was wiped out. It told me to search in other counties. While I am happy with where I ended up, I ultimately had no choice in where I could live because the housing options simply weren't available.

I don't feel like homeownership is within reach for me, let alone in the walkable neighborhood I live in now - I could never afford it - nor do I need or want a large single family home. Building more housing in existing neighborhoods is more affordable for developers and residents because the infrastructure to support the housing already exists, and increasing the housing supply in neighborhoods like mine is one way to help keep housing prices down. Being able to build a greater variety of homes in more places means giving people the options I don't currently have.

Oregonians need more choice. It's long past time we remove barriers to give people options of where they live, in a type of housing that meets their needs, and at a price that isn't burdensome.

I urge your support of this bill. Thank you.