

03 March, 2025

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness, thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2138.

My name is Joseph Castaldi, I am a retired engineer living in the Hood River area for 13 years now and have been living in Oregon since 1989. In fact, I've lived in Oregon three different times starting in 1968, and I have returned again and again since I believe our state offers so much. However, the high cost of housing in our state, which is especially problematic here in Hood River, means that more must be done to encourage diverse housing options.

As I understand the proposed legislation, HB 2138, may positively affect Oregon's housing shortage by legalizing more housing in the communities where we live and where we can afford to remain in our communities as we age. Smaller homes on smaller lots should be encouraged, especially multi-family arrangements with ADUs and cottage clusters.

I've come to learn that some local community regulations may actually work to subvert the intent of previous fair housing legislation, or that zoning overlays and 'historic' designations are allowed to remain in place for the explicit purpose of limiting this proactive legislation which is aimed at making progress towards affordable housing in all of our communities.

In my view, HB 2138 represents progress, and we need to make progress here in Oregon, right now.

Thank you for this opportunity to lend my support for HB 2138.