



House Committee on Housing & Development

**Testimony in Support of HB 2138**

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AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with 500,000 members in Oregon. We work to improve the quality of life for all as we age and advocate on issues that matter to 50+ Oregonians.

AARP Oregon supports HB 2138 and urges your support of the bill to expand housing options in Oregon communities. This bill is crucial for addressing the critical housing needs of our communities and building a more livable and age-friendly Oregon.

Our state is experiencing significant demographic changes. We're one of the oldest Western states and aging faster than the rest of the country. As our population ages, we must create housing options that allow people to age in place and stay connected to their communities.

AARP research shows that most 50+ Americans want to live in their own communities as they grow older. This desire is even stronger for those over 65 and those in small towns and rural areas. But many cannot find affordable homes to downsize in their own neighborhoods. And older adults are the fastest-growing segment of people experiencing homelessness. Housing is the linchpin of wellbeing at any age!

We need more affordable, accessible, and varied types of homes in our communities to meet people's preferences, our changing demographics, and today's economic realities. We need continued bold action to address the ongoing housing crisis and also prepare for the future.

On behalf of AARP, I urge you to support HB 2138 and help us build more age-friendly, equitable, and inclusive communities for all Oregonians.