



Janelle Booth, City Manager
Scott Cowan, Mayor

March 14, 2025

RE: Opposition to HB 2258-1

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Anderson and Breese Iverson, Members of the Committee

The City of Millersburg stands in opposition to HB 2258-1.

Oregon is facing a housing crisis, with a need to build over 100,000 homes to meet Oregonians' needs. Millersburg agrees that we need to address our housing shortage and the underlying issues in housing underproduction, like lack of infrastructure funding and market economics. However, HB 2258 is not the right policy for our communities.

HB 2258 removes all local decision making. Cities need to be responsive to our constituents. The public process for Land Use creates Comprehensive Plan Policies and Zoning Laws that are supported by the people; those should remain in place. Planning is about addressing community needs and desires. Local plans and regulations reflect what the community has requested and values. Oregonians want cities to reflect their community's character; local regulations, like design standards in Zoning codes, make sure that happens.

Goal 1, public participation, and Goal 10, housing requirements, work hand in hand. This bill undermines Goal 1, eliminating the public's ability to engage in the process at their local level. Circumventing local regulations that the public has created and supported erodes trust between the City/State and the community we serve.

Oregon is a vast and diverse state. Local governments tailor their local codes and zoning to their communities' needs and concerns; some communities need to address wind and flooding in their building codes while others may need to think more about wildfire. Some have an aging population and may need to think about aging in place, while others may need more homes for growing families or young professionals. A home that may work well for one region may be unsafe or not fit for the community needs in another. This bill creates a one-size fits all model for housing, which does not work for our communities.

Oregon needs more housing, we need bills that significantly move the needle and work with our communities, HB 2258 is not one of them.

Thank you,

Janelle Booth, P.E.
City Manager
City of Millersburg
Janelle.Booth@millersburgoregon.gov