



March 24, 2025

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson and Committee Members, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

**Re: Support for HB 2138-1
Allowing for denser home building in cities**

The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts represents Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts, which are special districts governed by elected boards. The Districts protect and enhance soil quality, water quality and quantity, and habitat by providing technical services and supporting voluntary conservation in partnership with private landowners and managers, and with federal, state and nonprofit partners. . Protection of farm and forest lands support our natural resource-based industries and conservation efforts.

HB 2138 is exactly the sort of housing bill that Oregon needs to provide affordable housing in existing neighborhoods. The infill encouraged by this bill takes advantage of existing infrastructure to build upon – water and wastewater availability, local transportation systems, schools and shopping. This bill will result in more infill and middle housing toward that goal.

Providing more affordable housing inside existing cities will also reduce the development pressure on farm and forest lands throughout the state. We appreciate the legislature's serious attention to Oregon's farm, range and forestlands. The longer we ignore these challenges, the more seriously these lands are irreparably impacted, If these lands are lost they cannot be replaced.

We urge your "yes" vote on HB 2138-1.

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

Jan Lee
Jan Lee, President