



13 February 2026

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon Legislature

Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

RE: Senate Bill 1522 - Support

My name is Jimmy Jones, and I am the Executive Director of the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA) in Salem. We serve low-income residents of Marion, Polk, and nine other counties across Oregon. Annually, MWVCAA administers more than \$80 million in services and direct assistance supporting housing stability, homelessness response, energy and weatherization, and early learning programs for tens of thousands of Oregonians. Through this work, we see directly how housing supply, land use policy, and statutory clarity influence the stability of families and the strength of communities.

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 1522, which updates Oregon's land use laws to make housing and urban growth planning clearer, more consistent, and easier for communities to implement.

Oregon's housing challenges are not solely a matter of affordability. They are also a matter of supply, predictability, and coordinated planning. When housing production does not keep pace with population growth and economic demand, households with the fewest financial resources experience the greatest impact. Increased competition for limited units drives up rents, reduces options for fixed-income seniors and working families, and contributes to displacement and homelessness.

Senate Bill 1522 provides needed statutory alignment and clarity to support more coordinated planning for future housing development. By restoring legislative intent and ensuring that local governments operate within a consistent and transparent framework, the bill strengthens the foundation for long-term housing growth. Clear rules reduce delay, limit unnecessary litigation, and allow communities to plan responsibly for expansion.

Housing development and poverty reduction are closely connected. When communities are able to increase housing supply in a predictable manner, pressure on rents moderates, stability improves, and fewer households are pushed into crisis and need support systems. Preventing homelessness is far more cost-effective than responding after families lose housing. Policies that improve planning and remove unnecessary barriers contribute directly to long-term economic mobility and community resilience.

Stable housing supports employment, educational, positive health outcomes, and community resilience. A well-functioning land use system is foundational to anti-poverty work.

For these reasons, MWVCAA respectfully urges your support for Senate Bill 1522. Thank you for your continued service to Oregon communities and for your thoughtful consideration of this measure.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Jones
Executive Director