

Hello,

We had a great meeting with our representative Cheri Helt on Friday regarding HB 2001, but I wanted to write to the rest of the committee to support this bill.

The housing crisis is an Oregon issue, and we all need to do what we can to provide more homes, and more housing options. Being rent burdened isn't something that just corresponds with our larger cities, so a statewide solution that allows the market to provide some needed homes.

This bill does so in a way that's pragmatic, practical and market-based. It re-legalizes something that we used to allow everywhere! Here in Bend, we have the "Broadway Apartments", which are 100 years old, and certainly do nothing to detract from the value of the expensive neighborhood where they're located.

The housing options it will allow are well within reach of our smaller, local developers - whereas larger apartment complexes tend to involve money from "out of town" in Oregon's smaller cities. It lets the 'little guy' compete to provide some diversity in housing options, in other words.

I think we're all familiar with some of the larger, fancier residences some of our fellow Oregonians enjoy. The kinds of homes this bill would allow are likely not much different in their external form from the units our wealthier neighbors enjoy.

As a renter who has seen my rent go up year after year, it's urgent that we allow supply to catch up to demand, and this bill is a great way to do that.

I know some of you (Representative Zika mentioned as much in an interview with the Bend Bulletin) hold out hope for some kind of UGB reform to add to our supply of housing, but realistically I'm not sure that's going to happen in the near future, and to waste this opportunity to make a dent in the housing crisis would be a shame.

Thank you for your time,

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David N. Welton