



February 1, 2016

Senator Michael Dembrow
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 1533, Inclusionary Zoning

Dear Senator Dembrow:

The OneGorge Advocacy Group is a network of public agencies and private businesses from Oregon and Washington communities throughout the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area working together to advocate for regional priorities. The undersigned participants of OneGorge wish to express our support for Oregon Senate Bill 1533, an Inclusionary Zoning Bill.

Communities throughout the Columbia River Gorge are struggling to balance the economic benefits of an exploding tourism industry and a burgeoning tech sector with the resulting increased demand on scarce available housing. Attainable workforce housing is a top priority and concern for nearly every community in the Gorge, especially in Hood River County. Lifting the statewide ban on inclusionary zoning will assist cities and counties of the Gorge to address the issue of affordable workforce housing.

Inventories of available buildable lands and housing needs analyses yield dire warnings for our communities' abilities to face this major obstacle to economic growth. Already, 40% of workers in Hood River that rent their homes are paying more than 30% of their gross income on housing. Businesses, schools, agencies, and hospitals are struggling to attract needed professional staff because the housing that is available is simply out of their attainable price range.

Passage of Senate Bill 1533 would provide a policy tool that local jurisdictions could use to increase the production of affordable housing and help to overcome this serious challenge. We urge your support of passage during the 2016 special session.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned, facilitated by OneGorge

Paul Blackburn



Paul Blackburn, Mayor
City of Hood River, OR

Mike Glover



Mike Glover
Executive Director, Hood River County Chamber of
Commerce

GORDON ZIMMERMAN




Gordon Zimmerman, City Administrator
City of Cascade Locks

Rosemary I Hoyt


Rosemary Hoyt
Private citizen




Mike Foley
Private citizen



Mark Zanmiller, City Council Member
City of Hood River



Michael S. McElwee, Executive Director
Port of Hood River



Paul Koch, Interim General Manager
Port of Cascade Locks



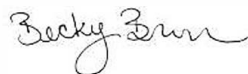
Ken Bailey, Vice President
Orchard View, Inc.



Mark Reynolds
Private citizen



Heather Staten, Executive Director
Hood River Valley Residents Committee



Becky Brun, City Council Member
City of Hood River



Rich McBride, Commissioner
Port of Hood River