



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

April 4, 2024

The Honorable Rob Wagner
President of the Senate
S-201 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Julie Fahey
Speaker of the House
H-269 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 1537

Dear President Wagner and Speaker Fahey,

Today, I am signing Senate Bill 1537. I write to express my appreciation and highlight potential issues regarding successful implementation. Thank you for the partnership in moving forward a successful housing production package in the 2024 Legislative Session.

Senate Bill 1537 was the only bill I introduced for the session and is a central part of our shared housing production goals. While the Legislature decided to provide direct appropriations for projects in lieu of the infrastructure program contained in the introduced bill, I continue to believe that state government has a critical role in accountable and efficient stewardship of public resources for housing development, including infrastructure to support housing production. I will continue to advocate for an infrastructure program that can systematically assess project readiness and appropriately steward limited public resources to maximize their benefit to overall housing production.

Although SB 1537 includes many tools to advance housing production, the most widely discussed topic was the one-time UGB expansion tool. I applaud the Legislature's decision to maintain this critical tool in the final production package, and I know that we are all committed to ensuring that each tool in the bill maximizes housing production responsibly. In alignment with that shared goal, I have directed the Department of Land Conservation and Development to provide technical assistance to cities and Tribes in accessing the tools established in the bill, including the one-time UGB expansion tool. I look forward to sharing any implementation considerations or barriers that may arise from that technical assistance process.

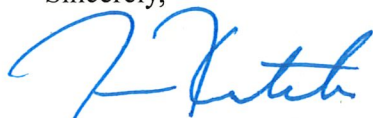
In addition, I express caution about the requirement in Section 16 for the Department of Land Conservation and Development to develop criteria for future direct appropriations for infrastructure by the Legislature. Establishing programs with clear criteria is the most effective and equitable way to ensure transparency, accountability, and outcomes with public funds.

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Finally, the Housing Accountability and Production Office only received one-time funding. This will create challenges in the recruitment and retention of top talent to establish the office and support local governments and housing developers to successfully implement Oregon's housing production laws. Ongoing funding is needed to maximize success.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. I look forward to continuing to work together to find additional concrete solutions to address Oregon's housing and homelessness crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tina Kotek", is written in a cursive style.

Governor Tina Kotek