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Press Contact:

Hannah Kurowski, House Majority Office
hannah.kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov

Majority Leader Fahey Attends White House Meeting on Housing Affordability

In 2023, housing affordability will be a top priority for Oregon House Democrats

SALEM, Ore. - Yesterday, Oregon House Majority Leader [Julie Fahey](#) (D-West Eugene/Junction City) attended a meeting with the White House on housing affordability with legislative leaders from across the country. Oregon currently faces a housing affordability crisis, with too many Oregonians unable to afford rent or become homeowners. This issue will continue to be a top priority for House Democrats in the upcoming 2023 session.

“Having the Biden-Harris administration as a trusted partner is critical as we continue to work to address this crisis,” said Fahey. “When [one in four rental households](#) in Oregon spend more than 50% of their income on rent and homes for prospective homebuyers [are the least affordable](#) that they’ve been since 2007, it’s clear the status quo isn’t working. In 2023, the legislature will focus on finding ways to build more homes as a way to make housing more affordable for Oregonians.”

[Over 140,000 new homes](#) need to be built to meet the needs of Oregon’s current population. This means that in the coming years, Oregon will need to roughly double our current pace of housing production. In 2023, House Democrats will consider ways to increase the housing supply in Oregon and implement a suite of solutions to help local governments plan for and build the homes their communities need.

“There isn’t one silver bullet solution, but rather many steps that must come together to help us address this crisis head-on and get more housing built,” said Fahey. “This means looking at how we plan for needed housing, our zoning and land use systems, regulatory barriers and permitting, our construction workforce needs, housing funding and financing, local infrastructure funding, and more.”

In 2021 and 2022, the legislature made over \$1 billion in investments to protect renters, help first-time home buyers, support affordable housing construction and preservation, offer more options for low-income and working families, and address homelessness. A significant portion of this funding came from an influx of federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars, in addition to a strong state budget.

In past legislative sessions, Oregon Democrats have taken bold steps to address the current affordability crisis, including the passage of House Bill 2001. Passed in 2019, this made Oregon the first state in the nation to relegalize “missing middle” housing like duplexes, triplexes, and quads in areas where they were previously banned, giving communities across the entire state more options for needed housing. It is now viewed as a national model for increasing housing choice across the country. Democrats also passed Senate Bill 608, which provides critical protections for Oregon renters by establishing a just-cause eviction standard and prohibiting extreme rent increases. This was the first statewide rent stabilization law in the nation.

Along with the Majority Leader, the following legislators were in attendance at yesterday's meeting:

- Toni Atkins, California President Pro Tempore of the Senate (D)
- Scott Wiener, California Senate Assistant Majority Whip (D)
- Nikil Saval, Pennsylvania State Senator (D)
- Craig Hickman, Maine State Senator (D)
- Grayson Lookner, Maine State Representative (D)
- Andy Vargas, Massachusetts State Representative (D)
- Kevin Honan, Massachusetts State Representative (D)
- Jessica Bateman, Washington State Representative (D)
- Patty Kuderer, Washington State Senator (D)
- Stanley Chang, Hawaii State Senator (D)
- Troy Hashimoto, Hawaii State Representative (D)
- Steve Elkins, Minnesota State Representative (D)
- Rich Draheim, Minnesota State Senator (R)
- Javier Mabrey, Colorado State Representative-elect (D)
- Betsy Coffia, Michigan State Representative-elect (D)
- Jason Morgan, Michigan State Representative-elect (D)
- Jason Hoskins, Michigan State Representative-elect (D)

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