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PRESS RELEASE

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Speaker Kotek encourages other states to ‘go big’ with housing reforms at White House panel

Kotek highlighted her work to promote more housing choices in Oregon

Oregon House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland) on Friday encouraged state and local governments to “go big” when addressing the housing crisis during a White House panel discussion about zoning reform.

“Everything has to be on the table,” Speaker Kotek said. “We’re at that point where middling around the edges will not do the job. ... Go big, work strongly with other folks and you can actually do these things in your state.”

The Biden Administration invited Speaker Kotek to join the virtual panel discussion about the need for land use innovations to address the nation’s housing crisis. She primarily spoke about [House Bill 2001](#), which she chief sponsored during the 2019 legislative session. It made Oregon the first state in the nation to re-legalize “missing middle” housing, meaning duplexes, triplexes and quads will be allowed in areas previously only zoned for detached single-family homes.

The housing work she led in 2019 to increase housing choice and more affordable options throughout the state [has been called](#) “the most ambitious response to housing affordability challenges in the country.”

Speaker Kotek was joined by California State Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco) and Utah State Senator Jacob Anderegg (R-Salt Lake). The video of her remarks can be found [here](#). The state legislative panel begins at the 45-minute and 30-second mark.

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