

**JANEEN SOLLMAN**  
**STATE SENATOR**  
**DISTRICT 15**



**OREGON STATE SENATE**

March 1, 2024

Obadiah Rutledge  
Secretary of the Senate

RE: Vote Explanation for Senate Bill 1537

Dear Secretary Rutledge,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my vote explanation for Senate Bill 1537. I supported this bill and voted yes, but I would like to voice some additional points on the bill in relation to the areas I represent.

I want to point out sections of the bill that create an alternative process for expanding Urban Growth Boundaries. The largest city in my district, Hillsboro, does not qualify under the needs criteria to utilize this important policy. That is disappointing and needs to be a part of the equation to make a dent in our statewide housing deficit. The Metro area and the Bend area are the highest growth areas of our state. It's going to be critical that we give them the tools they need to plan and deliver needed housing if we are going to make the type of rapid progress we all know we need to make. Hillsboro is a high-growth city. The market exists to deliver on the housing planning only if we provide the policy they need to support the market in the delivery of needed housing. Thus, I am concerned that SB 1537 does not give Hillsboro the support on the policy side to do that work to further our statewide housing goals. As we continue to work to increase housing production, we need to continue to be mindful of, and not forget the important work we started last session to continue to grow our manufacturing economy. That work is not done, particularly in my district, because the growth and success of our high-tech manufacturing economy is directly related to the work we need our local government partners to do to support housing production and provide sustainable public services.

Regarding the creation of the Housing Accountability and Production Office, we as a legislature have passed several major pieces of legislation designed to remove barriers to housing at the local level over the last decade. The HAPO is charged with further ensuring that local barriers are minimized and addressed and that cities in particular are accountable. This is a good thing, but at some point, we must address the systemic barriers in our state statutes and rules, and in my district, the systemic barriers in our regional planning system. We need to do that work if Oregon is going to overcome its housing shortage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janeen Sollman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Janeen Sollman  
Senate District 15

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