

PRESS RELEASE

OREGON HOUSE DEMOCRATS

<u>For Immediate Release</u> May 17, 2021 For more information, Contact: Hannah Kurowski: Hannah.Kurowski@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon Legislature Eases Restrictions to Allow Cities to Build Middle Housing

Senate Bill 458 simplifies the process of dividing lots in order to construct more housing units

SALEM, OR—Today, the Oregon House passed <u>Senate Bill 458</u>, a bill that allows cities with a population 25,000 or more, residential zones in counties or cities within metropolitan service districts, and cities outside metropolitan service districts with between 10,000 and 25,000 residents to divide property lots in order to build middle housing. The bill also prohibits planned communities, such as homeowner associations, from prohibiting land divisions.

"As a realtor, I have seen first-hand that Oregon communities of all sizes lack entry-level homeownership opportunities," said Rep. Mark Meek (D-Oregon City), who carried the bill on the House floor. "Homeownership is one of the key indicators of household wealth. Racist policies like redlining and discriminatory lending practices have excluded Oregon BIPOC community members from this critical wealth-building opportunity."

SB 458 builds on the provisions created under <u>House Bill 2001</u> in 2019—which allowed cities middle housing on lots previously zoned for single, detached homes—by creating a clear pathway for local governments to divide middle housing lots.

SB 458 passed 54-2, and now heads to the Governor's desk.

###