



7/9/2025

Metro 2040 Grant Review Committee
Attn: Ms. Serah Breakstone
Metro Regional Government
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Members of the Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of the Home Building Association of Greater Portland I am writing to express our strong support for the City of Lake Oswego's grant application to conduct a comprehensive audit of its development code. This project presents a meaningful opportunity to support housing production and economic growth in Lake Oswego— We applaud the commitment from the city in reviewing its practices reaffirming our shared commitment to expanding housing options and sustaining a strong, affordable, local building industry.

The City's proposal reflects a thoughtful, strategic approach to improving its Community Development Code (CDC). This audit—identified as a key implementation measure in the City's adopted Housing Production Strategy—has the potential to unlock new housing opportunities and support commercial investment by:

- **Amending or removing development standards that act as barriers** to housing and business development;
- **Eliminating unnecessary obstacles** that contribute to increased project costs, prolonged timelines, or administrative inefficiencies;
- **Streamlining how developers and applicants access and navigate the CDC**, including identifying specific code areas where clearer language, organization, or flexibility can promote a smoother development experience.

The project also seeks to:

- **Identify barriers to housing production and economic development** embedded within existing regulations;
- **Highlight standards and procedures that can be right-sized or simplified**, including overlays and zoning districts;
- **Flag procedural requirements that add time or cost** to development applications; and

- **Ensure the City's code is fully aligned with state land-use law**, helping to avoid legal risks and ensure policy consistency.

Lake Oswego's decision to pursue this effort sets a strong example for other jurisdictions, and we encourage cities across the region to undertake similar, solutions-oriented code reviews. As a major voice of the residential building industry in the region, we welcome the opportunity to engage in the audit process and contribute to efforts that will create a more predictable, efficient, and cost-effective environment for housing development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Isaac Ambruso", written in a cursive style.

Isaac Ambruso
Deputy Director of Policy & Government Affairs
isaaca@hbapdx.org