# **TESTIMONY**



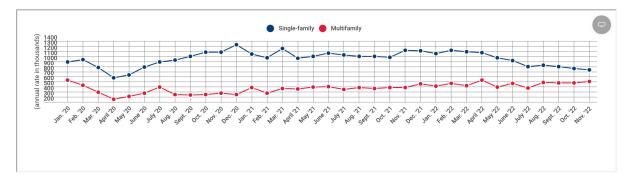
# HB 1499 HOUSE IB&L COMMITTEE

# **FEBRUARY 7, 2023**



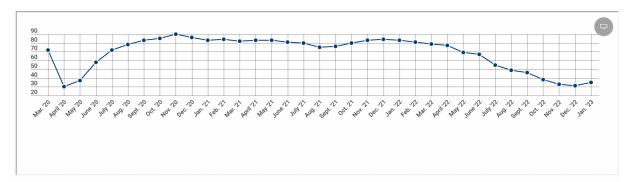
#### **Framing Lumber Prices**

Fluctuations in the costs of building materials, particularly those of framing lumber, contribute significantly to home prices and housing affordability levels.



## **Housing Starts**

Housing starts data are key economic indicators that track the pace of residential construction. These monthly Census Bureau statistics typically reflect broader trends within the overall economy such as interest rates and job growth.



## NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI)

The HMI offers an insider's perspective on the current state of housing. Each month, builder sentiment about the present and near-term housing market is depicted on a scale of 0 to 100, indicating the portion of builders experiencing positive market conditions.