



CITY OF West Linn

March 15, 2021

House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Sent via email

Re: City of West Linn Opposition to HB 3040 – 1 amendments as drafted

Dear Chair Lively and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the West Linn City Council, I am writing to express the City of West Linn's concerns regarding HB 3040 - 1.

This bill originally called for a study of System Development Charges (SDC) which we support in order to understand the current state of these charges and how they affect housing provision and affordability. However, the -1 amendments throws this shared understanding out the window and replaces it with a hastily assembled, one-size-fits-all approach based largely on a few anecdotes and particular circumstances. This approach pre-empts local authority; we can already do all of the things listed in the amendments and should not be required to do so when it doesn't make sense.

The -1 amendments are not practicable as written, will not clearly reduce housing costs, and will throw additional uncertainty and delay into SDC assessment. More concerning, the proposed language does not reflect a consensus of the workgroup that has been studying this issue. The workgroup process prevented local governments from presenting our perspective, leading to a one-sided proposal which will not solve the problems it professes to address.

We urge the Committee to return to the study concept, and in fact make the study broader by including other cost drivers of housing and infrastructure so that we have a complete picture of what is happening in our communities. Business Oregon should also be included in this work so that business development is addressed at the same time. We also urge the Committee to make any future changes in this area as flexible as possible to allow local governments to innovate.

Thank you for your work and for the opportunity to comment on this critical legislation.

Sincerely,


Jules Walters
Mayor

CC: Senator Rob Wagner, Representative Rachel Prusak