



WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

February 14, 2023

Chair Maxine Dexter
Vice-Chairs Mark Gamba and Jeffrey Helfrich
Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

VIA OLIS

Re: Support for HB 2001 -1 Amendment

Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

Washington County is the second largest county in the state of Oregon, with over 600,000 people residing within the County. Since 1990, the county's population has nearly doubled in size, most recently our population has grown at a rate equivalent to 19 people moving in every day. This growth has made us one of the most rapidly growing and most diverse county in the state.

Rapid growth comes with significant efforts to find housing for all members of the community, from planning for growth to work by our community development department to support those facing homelessness to our housing departments working to develop and maintain affordable housing units and providing supporting services. We have reviewed the proposed amendment for HB 2001 and support the work that is reflected in the proposals.

In particular, the housing predevelopment funding for median income affordable housing is vital in helping to meet a need that is often squeezed out of other programs. It would be important to see this pilot project maintain the units as workforce affordable to extend the value of the investment into the future.

Additionally, the requirements for public bodies include section 17 align with the work we are doing in helping those seeking to avoid eviction.

We support this multi-pronged policy work to address housing needs across the state and look forward to continuing to partner with the state in keeping people housed.

Sincerely,

Erin Doyle
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