

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today in support of HB 4134: Housing Oregon's workforce.

Throughout our state insufficient housing stock and lack of affordable housing choice is an apparent and well recognized problem. One major barrier to housing production, particularly in small rural communities, is inadequate infrastructure to support the immediate development of additional necessary housing.

While cities, such as Amity, are supportive and would welcome affordable housing choices into our communities; logically and financially, we are unable to enhance our infrastructure at the rate necessary to accommodate such advancements. Cities want to partner in fighting the housing crisis yet need state support to do so!

In Amity, a non-profit developer of affordable housing (Community Home Builder's) is approved to build 35 new affordable homes. Unfortunately, the cost of the infrastructure to fully facilitate that development is cost-prohibitive and may prevent the developer from proceeding. This funding would allow the City of Amity to build the streets, sidewalks, and storm system required to properly serve 35 new workforce families as they find high quality affordable housing.

HB 4134 provides direct to city support that will alleviate the largest barrier to quick development of housing in our rural communities. Adequate infrastructure is necessary to support development. Direct allocation and contractual timelines within this Bill will ensure that, within a short time period, substantial progress is made towards ending our housing crisis with over 1,000 new housing units available throughout the state.

Supporting local public-private partnerships through 'Housing Oregon's Workforce' guarantees housing units that are affordable to Oregonian's that fall within the local average median income. This distinction is significant at a time where our workforce and middle-income citizens are desperate for options of adequate housing in the places where they've grown up, commute to, or would like to work.

Please consider the positive impacts of funding these shovel ready projects. By supporting the construction of adequate infrastructure, through HB4134, all of Oregon will benefit from a multifaceted investment into affordable housing where it is needed most. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Rachel" on top and "King" below it, both starting with a capital letter.

Mayor Rachel King -on behalf of the Amity City Council