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January 25, 2024

Rep. Maxine Dexter, Chair
Rep. Vikki Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair
Rep. Mark Gamba, Vice-Chair
Oregon House Interim Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Chair Rep. Dexter and Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Gamba,

The City of Madras continues to be challenged with housing despite our aggressive efforts to reduce permitting timelines, simplify regulations, and reduce infrastructure costs. Over the last three years very little affordable or workforce housing has been constructed. These types of residential development are hard to finance and are marginally profitable for the private sector to build without significant assistance.

The City of Madras has been working with Rep. Elmer (Dist. 24) to craft the Housing Oregon's Workforce (HOW) bill that partners with the private sector to help affordable and workforce housing to be constructed through infrastructure grants. This bill is the only housing bill to use a commonsense method for funding projects immediately by skipping the unnecessary and bureaucratic system at OHCS. It avoids the red tape and enormous delay that is typical of state budget funding processes and will get money into our community's hands within months -- instead of years!

The City of Madras requests that the Housing Interim Committee on Housing and Homelessness approve Rep. Elmer's bill.

Sincerely,

Mike Lepin, Mayor
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