



February 12, 2024

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4063 – housing production in urban unincorporated areas

Dear Chair Dexter, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I am unable to come to Salem on Tuesday, but eager to support the important work done by Chair Dexter and the task force she convened over the fall. Few in the legislature appreciate the fact that over 30%, and perhaps as much as 40%, of the population of urban Clackamas and Washington counties live outside of cities, in urban unincorporated areas. If the urban unincorporated area between Milwaukie, Happy Valley and Gladstone were to incorporate, it would be by far the largest city in Clackamas County, with over 100,000 residents.

In the vast swaths of urban unincorporated Clackamas County, it is clear that very little is being done to incentivize middle housing, much less affordable housing. Lot sizes are much larger in some urban unincorporated areas than in adjacent cities. Much remains to be done to ensure that urban unincorporated areas are sufficiently participating in housing production efforts, but HB 4063 is an excellent first step, and I encourage you to move it forward with a “do pass” recommendation.

Many thanks to Chair Dexter for her work on this, and thanks to the Committee for your time and consideration of this important legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa M. Batey".

Lisa M. Batey  
Mayor