



Portland Housing Bureau

February 13, 2024

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

Chair Dexter, Vice Chairs Gamba and Breese-Iverson, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the City of Portland's Housing Bureau, I am writing today to express our strong support for House Bill 4063 with the -2 and -4 amendments. Both of these amendments will achieve the goals outlined in those sections of the bill while addressing concerns that City of Portland had with the originally drafted legislation.

This piece of legislation makes many important clarifications around housing planning responsibilities in Metro urban unincorporated lands, and most importantly to the City of Portland, removes the necessity for City Council to approve individual applications for the Homebuyer Opportunity Limited Tax Exemption (HOLTE) program, allowing direct application approval under the authority of the Portland Housing Bureau based on Council-adopted program guidelines. This will streamline the application process for applicants and staff and remove barriers for expedited housing project approval.

Thanks to Chair Dexter's willingness to make changes to this bill with stakeholders, we are hopeful that these changes related to the HOLTE application approval process will speed up the process of approving certain housing projects. For this reason, and many more, The City of Portland's Housing Bureau urges you to support House Bill 4063 with the -2 or -4 amendment.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Buonocore".

Michael Buonocore
Interim Deputy Director
Housing Bureau, City of Portland