



TO: House Rules Committee
FROM: Brian Sjothun, City Manager
DATE: February 20, 2024
POSITION: **Support for -1 amendments to HB 4026**

The City of Medford requests your support of the -1 amendments to HB 4026 which will make necessary clarifications to voter referendum ability on UGB changes that are policy directives in the Governor/Legislative Housing package.

Located in Jackson County, the City of Medford has a population of 90,887 and serves as the County seat. Medford is the demographic and economic hub of the southern Oregon region. With the continued growth in healthcare, retail and manufacturing along with retirees discovering this great region, the City anticipates a continued growth rate of 1.8% per year. Medford is currently the 4th largest metro area in Oregon and is known throughout the country and the world for its pear orchards, and is home to Harry & David, one of the world's largest shippers of fruit and food gifts.

In order for cities across Oregon to commit to the state's housing production goals and implementation of policies the legislature agrees to forward, there must be assurances that they will not have to endure costly conflict and litigation that often comes with land use decisions. Medford is committed to public engagement in all land use decisions, but we know how complicated and contentious they can be, and we hope the increase in production and land use decision making will not mean more time in court.

We urge you to continue the partnership that the state and local governments have embarked on to solve our housing crisis, by supporting this amendment and the resulting peace of mind it will bring.