



February 13, 2024

Representative Helm, Chair; Representative Hartman, Vice-Chair; Representative Owens, Vice-Chair; and Committee Members

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

900 Court St. NE

Salem Oregon 97301

RE: House Bill 4128

Dear Chair Helm and Committee Members,

The League of Oregon Cities is writing in support of house bill 4128 (HB 4128) and is grateful for the momentum and support this legislative session for infrastructure investment. HB 4128 is an important component of meeting challenges that confront cities.

All cities are facing infrastructure needs that cannot be met with local resources alone. As cities across the state work urgently to address Oregon's housing crisis, infrastructure costs remain the largest barrier to housing development and housing affordability.

In response to requests from legislators for near-term infrastructure projects to support housing development, the LOC conducted a brief survey of all 241 member cities. 225 individual infrastructure projects were identified to support over 46,000 new homes of various housing types and affordability levels. Projects range in cost from \$50,000 to \$50 million with a total requested amount of approximately \$827.9 million.

This data confirms that infrastructure costs are an incredible challenge for cities of all sizes across the state, whether urban, rural, suburban or frontier. Furthermore, local capacity and financing constraints mean existing state and federal infrastructure programs are out of reach for too many small and rural cities.

HB 4128 is a critical step for Oregon to make progress on our state's housing goals, and the LOC is grateful for the momentum and support this legislative session for infrastructure investment.

Thank you for your consideration, the LOC urges your support for HB 4128.

Jim McCauley, Legislative Director
League of Oregon Cities