

County Commissioners

Colm Willis, Chair
Kevin Cameron
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Chief Administrative Officer

Jan Fritz

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 10, 2026

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 1564 – City of Woodburn Urban Growth Boundary Expansion

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners writes in strong support of SB 1564, which would authorize a one-time Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion for the City of Woodburn to address its urgent housing needs.

Oregon remains in a housing crisis. Families across our state are struggling with rising costs, limited inventory, and reduced affordability. Governor Tina Kotek's Executive Order 23-04 set a goal of producing 36,000 new homes annually over the next twenty years, underscoring the scale of the challenge before us. The 2024 Oregon Housing Needs Analysis further identified the need for approximately 29,500 new homes per year statewide to meet projected demand. Meeting these goals will require bold, targeted solutions that empower communities ready to build.

Woodburn is one of those communities. The City's 2024 housing projections indicate a need for 3,295 new homes by 2045. However, its current supply of buildable residential land is expected to be depleted within the next two years. Without legislative relief, housing production in one of Oregon's fastest-growing and most diverse cities will slow dramatically, directly undermining statewide housing production targets.

Importantly, Woodburn has not arrived at this point due to inaction. Since adopting its last Housing Needs Analysis in 2019, the City has permitted more than 2,400 dwelling units and has proactively implemented the strategies identified in its acknowledged housing plans. Woodburn has demonstrated responsible stewardship of its existing UGB and has worked diligently to maximize available residential land.

The existing statutory processes for UGB adjustments are lengthy, costly, and ill-suited to respond to the immediacy of Woodburn's housing shortage. Current timelines would delay meaningful action for several years, time the City simply does not have. SB 1564 provides a targeted, legislative pathway for a one-time expansion that would allow Woodburn to continue delivering housing at all income levels in a thoughtful and planned manner.

The Marion County Board of Commissioners has full confidence in the City of Woodburn's leadership and planning capacity. We believe the City will responsibly manage any expansion authorized by the Legislature and ensure that new residential land is developed efficiently and in alignment with state housing goals.

SB 1564 represents a practical and timely solution that aligns with the Governor's housing production initiatives and the Legislature's commitment to increasing housing supply statewide. We respectfully urge your support of this important measure.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work addressing Oregon's housing challenges.

Sincerely,



Colm Willis
Chair



Danielle Bethell
Commissioner

Kevin Cameron
Commissioner