



April 22, 2021

House Committee on Housing

Chair Fahey

Vice-Chair Campos

Vice-Chair Morgan

Members of the Committee

The Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA) has reviewed Senate Bill 141A relating to vertical housing development projects and views the proposed changes as a positive enhancement of the Vertical Housing Development Zone (VHDZ) program. As the statewide association for Oregon's economic development community, OEDA recognizes the importance of workforce housing development as a key component of effective community development in Oregon. Our association members can attest how often lack of affordable housing poses a key obstacle to creating economic opportunity in their communities.

The VHDZ program is a key tool for promoting housing development. The proposed program adjustments in SB 141A streamline the requirements for clarity and uniformity, removing uncertainty and disincentives to maximizing development in any project without granting more in abatements than is actually developed. The result will be to enhance project feasibility and drive successful housing development so needed across our state.

The OEDA network includes over 150 member organizations across the state- cities, counties, ports, utilities, economic development districts, tribal governments and other entities that practice economic development. Our network also includes partners in workforce, entrepreneurship & innovation, business finance and technical assistance providers. Our network represents the experts in Oregon economic development, and we appreciate the opportunity to share what it takes to grow regional economies. We hope you will consider Senate Bill 141A favorably.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "APICKARD".

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