



LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Joe Berney
Jay Boziewich
Heather Buch
Pat Farr
Laurie Trierger

May 11, 2021

Representative Julie Fahey, Chair
Representative Winsvey Campos, Vice Chair
Representative Lily Morgan, Vice Chair
House Committee on Housing
900 Court St., NE
Salem OR 97301

RE: Lane County Support for SB 391A

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Campos and Morgan and Members of the Committee:

Lane County is in support of SB 391A and urges you to schedule a work session on this measure.

We supported SB 88 from the 2019 session and continue to support the allowance of accessory dwelling units. We find that SB 391A will be good public policy.

Lane County continues to have increasing property values coupled with relatively stagnant wage growth. The County is deemed “rent burdened”, which means more than 30% of household income is spent on rent. And, Portland State’s Population Research Center tells us that we can expect our current population of 365,000 people to grow to 429,000 people by 2035. We need tools to allow us to accommodate this kind of growth, and SB 391A will be an additional housing tool available to the County to further enhance the supply side of the housing issue.

We recognize that the sidebars on this measure have been discussed and negotiated over a period of years. This stated, when the Legislature adopts specific sidebars with respect to distances and square footage, there undoubtedly will be Lane County property where inches of distance from a primary residence or a square foot over 800 may result in a needy individual or family not have access to housing. We wish the Legislature would provide County's with additional discretion based on local situations. The land use framework in Oregon was developed to enable decision making at a local level, and this measure only provides flexibility for additional restrictions, with no flexibility for local enhancements should they be deemed acceptable given the local circumstances.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

Sincerely,

Joe Berney, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners