

Madam Chair and members of the Committee. I am Representative Bobby Levy, House District 58, representing Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties.

I am here to introduce HB 2160, a way for the city of Pendleton to address a crisis for affordable housing.

Pendleton sits at the base of the Blue Mountains, along the Umatilla River, in the middle of rolling wheat fields. The city boasts many historic homes, a beautiful main street, Blue Mountain Community College, and the world famous Pendleton Round-Up. Pendleton is a place that people want to live and work. However, despite the economic opportunities that we have, most of our employees cannot live within the city.

This problem has existed for quite a few years now but has been exacerbated by the historic flooding that happened in February of last year. An entire trailer home park was caught in the middle of the flooding of the Umatilla River, leaving our most vulnerable community members homeless with nowhere to relocate. It's one thing to lose your home and it's another to have to leave the city you called home because there is no other place for you to live.

In the creation of HB 2160, we have worked with city leadership, state agencies, and environmental stakeholders to ensure that no parties are left behind.

I urge you to pass HB 2160. The city of Pendleton deserves to be able to provide for its residents and rebuild after the devastation of last year.

Thank you for your time. I have submitted written testimony as well and I have attached an article detailing the devastation of the flooding posted by The East Oregonian. I urge you to read through the stories of those affected.

https://www.eastoregonian.com/news/local/one-year-later-a-year-after-the-floods-victims-share-their-stories/article_ebe6d120-6598-11eb-bffa-93d53aadbf31.html