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On Behalf Of: Wallowa County
Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business
Measure: HB3317

Hb3317

Thank you for letting me testify today on hb3317 Along with Bobby Levy I am the principal author of the bill. Tourism and Recreation has become a major part of the Wallowa Counties economy. With the shift from logging and sawmills to recreation we have seen a shift of work force housing to other uses like vacation rentals or second homes and an appreciation rate of 15 % per year. This shift has been so severe we are struggling to fill jobs at our local businesses the hospital, schools, as well as USFS and state forestry.

In Aug. I had the good fortune to set in on a panel discussion on the Boarder Bill. This bill was introduced by then Rep Tina Kotek in 2017 to help Malheur counties economy. Since its inception the Border Board. has funded projects that promote workforce development to create or retain jobs, expand business, provide incentives for work force housing, , and helping to make the land use changes that well stimulate economic growth within the Oregon communities bordering Idaho.

I'm here today asking for the same help that Malheur County got in 2017. The chance to set up a new economic development organization that can work to over come the challenges our county has. When I purposed this bill, my colleagues said are you nuts asking for a land use change that's taboo in Oregon. I think the time is right to do just that it clear that goal ten of our land use plan has been neglected for to long and we need to do something about it .

The county commissioners have set aside 500k for work force housing and have agreed with the passage of this bill to reduce building permit fees.

I would like to leave you with two my favorite quotes of the year.
First from Rep Lively not one bill fits all counties.
And from Tina Kotek we need to make bold moves to fix our housing problem.
This committee should take the Governors lead and make a bold move and fund a bill that will help a frontier county's economy.