



MAYOR'S OFFICE

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February 18, 2022

Senator Kayse Jama, Chair

Senator Dick Anderson, Vice-Chair

Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development

Oregon State Capitol

900 Court Street NE

Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Jama and Vice-Chair Anderson,

I'm writing on behalf of the Salem City Council in enthusiastic support of HB 4037A, which would provide Salem with a critical tool to expand temporary or emergency sheltering in our community.

As you know, the City of Salem, like so many other cities in Oregon, is struggling with issues related to homelessness. And while we have committed significant local resources to address this issue, building out housing options – including micro-shelter village communities – and supporting an array of services designed to address multiplicity of challenges facing individuals living unsheltered in our community, including intensive case management for those choosing support.

House Bill 4037A would accomplish one of Salem's key priorities for the 2022 session. Securing flexible disposition of State of Oregon property for sheltering use on a temporary or permanent basis is critical for Salem as we continue to explore sites for micro-shelter villages and other temporary housing options. Access to State-owned property would help us respond to the local sheltering crisis. Finding suitable locations for temporary housing has proved extremely challenging.

The City of Salem is requesting your support and assistance for House Bill 4037A. I urge consideration of this flexible approach for disposition of State-owned properties to allow us, in Salem, to give us the opportunity to provide more temporary and emergency shelter for our unsheltered neighbors. Stability is critical in being able to help individuals make the next step to access other services and more permanent shelter.

The City of Salem is requesting your support for House Bill 4037A.

Sincerely,

Chuck Bennett

Mayor

cc: Salem Legislative Delegation

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❖ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility services will be provided upon request ❖
Servicios razonables de alojamiento y accesibilidad se facilitarán por petición