



February 8th, 2019

RE: HB 2001

Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Human Services and Housing Committee-

Please accept this testimony into the record in support of HB 2001.

The Mid-columbia Housing Authority promotes and administers affordable housing solutions throughout the mid-columbia region to include Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties. We work closely with local jurisdictions assisting them in meeting their identified housing needs. HB 2001 brings a solution forward on an issue being experienced throughout the State and in parts of our service area – the market is not providing a variety of housing types and there are constraints on developable land.

Communities like Hood River are looking to increase the capacity of their existing residential land base by increasing the efficient use of land to support growth and address affordability challenges. HB 2001 appears to reinforce and support the work of communities like Hood River that are trying to expand the types of housing available to their citizens.

MCHA supports the work of Hood River and would like to voice support for HB 2001 as it is a policy action intended to result in real opportunities to provide adequate numbers of needed housing units and the efficient use of buildable land within urban growth boundaries. We feel strongly that a healthy housing market is imperative to our communities and the people we serve.

Without a healthy housing market, the people we serve will continue to experience challenges when they're ready to move on from one of our rental assistance programs or one of our affordable housing developments. Furthermore, housing choice voucher participants are more likely able to find a place to utilize their voucher in communities that have diverse and adequate housing types. All too often families who receive a voucher are returning their voucher due to not finding a place.

We encourage you to join us in support of HB 2001 and continue the momentum forward in the provision of adequate and affordable housing throughout Oregon.

Respectfully,

Joel Madsen
Executive Director

