



ALEX CUYLER

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DATE: February 25, 2019
TO: House Human Services and Housing
RE: HB 2360, relating to use of surplus public lands

Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

Lane County is in support of HB 2360. If signed into law by the Governor, this measure would create a task force focused on the use of publicly owned “surplus” land as it pertains to housing development. We would look forward to the work of the task force and find that the issue is worthy of this kind of focused effort.

Lane County has high barriers when it comes to housing; our median salary to median home cost is high, many of our residents are severely rent burdened, and our homelessness population continues to grow. We regularly work on this issue and have been involved with projects that once complete do make a positive impact on people’s lives. These include creative efforts around veteran’s housing, post-prison housing, and permanent supportive housing projects. We additionally formed a Poverty and Homelessness Board to provide a focal point for housing policy issues.

We know, however, there are additional tools out there that should be explored, and this is why HB 2360 is appealing. It will examine the opportunities and barriers to the utilization of “the sale and use of public lands to address housing shortages throughout this state.”

HB 2360 outlines the proposed task force membership, and includes a seat for housing authorities and for county governments. We find the membership roster is appropriate.

We urge the Committee to schedule a work session for this measure.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY