



March 5, 2019

House Committee on Agriculture and Land Use
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2003: Requires Oregon Department of Administrative Services to develop methodology to conduct regional housing needs analysis and, for certain cities and Metro, to inventory existing housing stock and to establish housing shortage analysis.

Dear Chair Clem, Vice-Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Post, and members of the Committee on Agriculture and Land Use,

The City of Beaverton commends any legislation that supports identifying and meeting housing needs in the region, but does not support HB 2003 without amendments.

Cities should not be penalized or deprived of local control when good-faith efforts to remove regulatory impediments to build housing and/or provide incentives to encourage development of housing does not result in the identified need being met. Much of these factors are outside of city control including housing market cycles, construction and labor costs, and a lack of sufficient funding at the regional, state and federal level to build affordable housing.

In developing the methodology for analyzing housing needs, we suggest the Department of Land Conservation and Development take the lead as they have the expertise to do so. We also recommend providing the flexibility for cities to define tailored actions, measures and policies needed to achieve housing need goals. Imposing one standard makes it difficult for cities to respond to the unique needs and constraints in local communities.

I urge you to revise House Bill 2003 and provide the flexibility for communities to determine the best approach to meeting local housing needs that contribute to the goals of the region. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cheryl Twete".

Cheryl Twete
Community Development Director