

Lori Stegmann
Multnomah County Commissioner
Representing East County, District 4



3/8/2019

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Nathanson and Members of the Committee,

As market values of single and multi-family housing have increased, manufactured and mobile home values have increased as well. These types of homes provide a low cost alternative for impoverished families and seniors, many of whom are dependent on social security and other programs. In 2017 the Legislature allowed Multnomah County to increase our taxing threshold to \$34,000. Unfortunately, rising home values and skyrocketing appreciation of manufactured and mobile homes are creating a new financial tax burden.

As the housing crisis continues in Multnomah County and throughout the state, it is imperative to have every available tool at our disposal. House Bill 2949 as amended would allow Multnomah County more flexibility to work with our partners to develop a policy specific to the needs of our county. Currently, Multnomah County has 4,945 manufactured structures. Over 63% (3,133) of those structures are located in my district. When tax bills become burdensome for residents, there is less money for food, healthcare, transportation, and utilities, resulting in an increased dependence on County programs and departments.

Providing tax relief as a preventative strategy can ensure that residents can stay in place. Manufactured and mobile homes have been a source of naturally occurring affordable housing in our community and we must preserve them. Increasing housing stability in our community allows for more residents to age in place, increases student success and creates healthier and safer communities.

I encourage you to support House Bill 2949 to give Multnomah County local control to serve some of our most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Stegmann".

Commissioner Lori Stegmann, Multnomah County District 4