



June 24, 2021

Sen. Rob Wagner
Chair, Senate Rules and Senate Majority Leader
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Sen. Wagner,

I am writing on behalf of OEA's 41,000 members, and more specifically, our education employees in Deschutes County, regarding HB 3318 with the A11 amendment.

We participate on the Education Beneficiaries Committee sponsored by the Department of State Lands, and in that role, we carefully guard the constitutional trust for the school children of Oregon, the Common School Fund. The job of DSL as stewards of that trust is to maximize the returns and minimize chargeable costs to the fund so that the corpus grows and generates greater interest payments help school districts fund their schools.

It is in this context that I urge the Senate Rules Committee to adopt the A11 amendments to HB 3318 and pass the bill to the Senate floor with a do-pass recommendation.

We have been involved in the conversations of the past week, with both legislative sponsors and DSL, working to make improvements to the bill that both protect the Common School Fund and also provide affordable housing in the nation's fastest-growing region – with some of the highest median housing prices. We are particularly grateful to Director Vicki Walker, who takes both her fiduciary responsibility of the CSF and her interest in making sound transaction decisions that have an education-related nexus at the same time that healthy returns are generated for the fund. It was her proposal to reserve seven total acres of the 20-acre conveyance for education employee affordable housing. We also want to acknowledge both Rep. Brian Clem and Rep. Jason Kropf for their outreach to OEA and flexibility in working to improve the bill.

With a nine-residence minimum per acre, this concept will create 63 affordable homes for our members, long priced out and often driving long distances to work in the Bend area. We also appreciate that the balance of the 20-acre conveyance will provide affordable housing opportunities more generally – something we support for the benefit of our low-income Oregon families.

We know that the hour is late and *sine die* imminent, but we would greatly appreciate your efforts to make it possible for this legislation to cross the finish line.

Very sincerely yours,

Laurie Wimmer
OEA Government Relations