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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR, 230 NE Second Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128
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March 8, 2021

Oregon House Committee on Housing
Rep. Julie Fahey, Chair
900 NE Court St.
Salem, OR 97301

Representative Fahey and members of the Committee:

As the Mayor of McMinnville and City Council President, we write to you today to urge you to not move HB2001 forward as presented. HB2100 is proposing serious funding changes that are concerning for McMinnville and Yamhill County, changes that risk derailing current and past efforts towards reducing and serving our unhoused population.

The City of McMinnville has worked diligently to respond to the statewide homelessness crisis as we have seen it become increasingly apparent in our City, as well as across Yamhill County. We rely on key City and County wide partners to provide expertise and deliver housing and services around the complex and multifaceted issues surrounding homelessness. Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP), our local Community Action Agency (CAA), is essential in leading some of this core work. Funds through the current system of Community Action are reliable, effective and make it to our most vulnerable residents. It is critical to our community that we partner with our local CAA. In its first nine months, the moteling program, administered through YCAP, has served over 140 individuals with a 75% success rate moving to permanent housing. YCAP hosts our shelter collaborative meetings, keeping local agencies working together. Recently, they have joined Built for Zero Yamhill; these are just a few examples of their work. YCAP continues to serve minority populations within the unhoused community at rates greater than reflected in the local population. The cuts proposed to the current funding for homelessness in HB2100, would be crippling to YCAP.

McMinnville and Yamhill County work with the small list of agencies within our community that can sustain the complex work needed to serve the unhoused, we do not have a plethora of agencies to work with such as the greater metropolitan regions in our State. Yamhill County is rural. We rely as a community on dependable funds being made available to our local CAA.

We urge you to not move HB2100 forward as presented.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Hill
Mayor, City of McMinnville

Remy Drabkin
Council President, City of McMinnville