



March 9, 2021

Representative Janelle Bynum, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: LOC Support for HB 3115

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3115. As you know, the LOC represents all of Oregon's 241 incorporated cities, which continue to face escalating rates of homelessness and a severe shortage of affordable and available housing. In the 2021 Legislative Session, the LOC is advocating to increase critical state investments in housing and services programs across the housing spectrum, from preventing and ending homelessness, to developing and maintaining affordable homes, to increasing access to and maintenance of affordable homeownership. The League is also engaged this session as your committed partner in both crafting and implementing sound policies to address Oregon's most pressing housing needs.

Under the direction of Speaker Kotek, the LOC participated in a workgroup effort this past fall with the Oregon Law Center as well as individual cities and counties. The workgroup spent many hours crafting a concept that recognizes a key principle from the recent *Martin v. City of Boise* federal court decision. HB 3115 ensures that local regulations affecting the ability of a person experiencing homelessness to sit, lie, sleep, or keep warm and dry must be objectively reasonable based on the totality of the circumstances. The bill also recognizes that what is objectively reasonable will look different in different communities. HB 3115 provides a framework for cities to update or develop new ordinances to manage public space and gives time to support intentional community conversations to inform those ordinances.

The LOC appreciates the collaborative spirit of the workgroup members, specifically Becky Strauss with the Oregon Law Center and the local government and law enforcement experts who helped craft this very technical bill. HB 3115 confirms cities' obligation to manage public spaces for the benefit of entire community while protecting the safety and dignity of people experiencing homelessness. Thank you for your consideration, we urge your support for HB 3115.

Sincerely,
Ariel Nelson, League of Oregon Cities