

March 28, 2021

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair Senate Committee On Housing and Development
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

Support of HB 391

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 391 to allow rural accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

After reviewing the proposed amendments, we strongly support SB 391. This will help alleviate the housing crisis that Tillamook County is currently facing and be another tool in the toolbox to assist.

The amendments will require necessary fire breaks, allow necessary water hookups to existing sources, and eliminate vacation rental usage of the ADU.

Tillamook County has had a lack of rentals, especially for those that make between 80% to 120% of area median incomes. Workers have turned down jobs after they are unable to find suitable housing options. Those that accept jobs are living with family, commuting long distances, living in RVs, or paying a high % of their income on housing.

This bill would allow for multi-generational home development, increase rental options, and provide housing options for aging in place for property owners.

Tillamook County is uniquely positioned with limited UGB lands as most of our county is unincorporated. Incorporated cities are Tillamook and north. Our southern communities are serviced by small local districts. Most cities of which have limited expansion without impacting or encroaching on existing resource zoned properties. Our resource lands are critical and cover 70% of the acreage in our county. These resource lands provide living-wage jobs to our farmers, fishermen, timber industry, income to local governments, and recreational opportunities. The rural residential properties have been identified as an opportunity to increase housing options.

This should not be considered unnecessary urbanization. We are looking to preserve our resource properties. Based on the recent housing needs analysis, our cities cannot provide for all the number of dwellings needed now and in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kari Fleisher, Chair of the legislative subcommittee & member at large Tillamook County Housing Commission

Mis Carlson Swanson, member of legislative subcommittee & non-profit representative Tillamook County Housing Commission

Marci Hallock, member of the legislative subcommittee Tillamook County Housing Commission