

Support HB 2160: Affordable Housing Opportunities in Pendleton

Growth in Pendleton

For years leading up to today, the City of Pendleton identified that a housing shortage was significantly impacting economic activity and growth. In 2011, thirty two percent more people commuted into the City to work than commuted out. Sixty two percent of employers stated that a lack of housing impeded their ability to grow. At the time, Pendleton employers reported they could produce an additional 495 jobs in the next 3-5 years.

The City partnered with the State of Oregon Regional Solutions team to develop a housing plan to address that shortage. A declaration of Cooperation was signed by the partners on June 21, 2011 to work together to implement the strategies identified in the Pendleton Housing Market Analysis. Signers included Umatilla County, Pendleton Chamber of Commerce, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Housing and Community Services, among others.

Unfortunately, sloping lands, soil stability, and other issues have caused of affordable housing construction companies to determine that much of the land is inadequate for the construction of homes. Without new construction, there is nowhere for these new employees arriving in Pendleton to live.

Let the City Offer Solution

The Legislature has passed multiple bills in previous years to create affordable housing pilot programs to be implemented by the Land Conservation and Development Commission. But unfortunately, Pendleton has not been able to benefit from these programs.

HB 2160 would allow the City of Pendleton to develop a pilot project to be submitted for approval by the Land Conservation and Development Commission on or before June 30, 2022. This bill is an important step toward achieving Pendleton's affordable housing goals and accommodating for the growing population.

Also, here to testify is City Engineer Tim Simons, who will expand on the challenges we have in constructing new home, and Community Action Program of East Central Oregon (CAPECO) Director Paula Hall, who will speak about the challenges CAPECO faced when trying to find temporary housing for displace flood victims during the 2020 Umatilla Flood.