

To Chair Fahey and Members of the House Committee on Housing,

The City of Hood River recognizes the challenges of expanding homeless services and affordable housing options not only in our region of the Columbia Gorge, but across the state of Oregon. The cost of housing in Hood River is a burden to families and individuals and Hood River City Council's current priorities include ensuring an inclusive and diverse housing inventory. The City is currently engaged in several projects including affordable housing production, expanding existing community partnerships, and improving local zoning codes.

As part of the intersection of housing and emergency services, The City of Hood River has for some years been a convener of the Hood River Homeless Stakeholders Coalition as well as a funder and partner to Hood River Shelter Services, which operates the only Winter Warming Shelter in Hood River County. Hood River Shelter Services has struggled to secure a long-term location for their Shelter and was able to benefit from last year's emergency flexible siting to secure a site for the current winter during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Hood River recognizes that House Bill 2006 would provide an expanded opportunity for flexible shelter siting and would facilitate the process of securing continued shelter services in our rural area. For this reason, I am writing to express support of House Bill 2006 on behalf of The City of Hood River.

Sincerely,

Kate McBride
Mayor of Hood River