



February 8, 2022

House Committee on Housing
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97031

RE: Support for House Bill 4123

Chair Fahey, Vice Chairs Campos and Morgan and Members of the Committee:

Deschutes County and the Cities of Bend, La Pine, Redmond, and Sisters join together to support House Bill 4123.

The \$1 million in funding dedicated to Deschutes County and its four cities offers an opportunity to establish a collaborative office that can help streamline the work of dozens of local organizations serving our regional houseless population as well as enable a community-wide approach to addressing houselessness under a shared set of principles, priorities, and strategies.

With unified governance and leadership, community stakeholders such as service providers, school districts, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, neighborhood groups, business partners, landlords, culturally-specific organizations, housing developers, financing partners, and regional and state advocates and agencies will be better equipped to engage with and support county-wide efforts to address houselessness.

A coordinated houseless response would facilitate a shared service model; a model proven to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and yield the biggest impact on our houseless community members.

Furthermore, we support HB 4123 for empowering a diverse region like ours to have equal local government agency representation in overseeing the collaborative office and execution of a cohesive county-wide plan that reflects each community's specific needs.

Thank you from Deschutes County and Cities of Bend, La Pine, Redmond, and Sisters.