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Rep. Fahey, Chair and Committee Members
House Committee on Housing
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Thursday, February 10, 2022

RE: Written Testimony in Support of HB 4118-1

Dear Rep. Fahey and Members of the Committee,

On the behalf of the City of Rainier, I would like to express our support for House Bill 4118 and the proposed -1 amendments.

The City faces many challenges due to its geography and topography, both of which make it extremely difficult to meet the demand for housing. Much of the existing Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) around the City is either on steep slopes or in areas that are prone to frequent flooding. I have included a map that was put together by staff in the Columbia County Assessor's Office to illustrate this point.

Although the City is examining making changes to its UGB through its Planning Commission, the processes involved are onerous and time consuming. The task force spelled out in the -1 amendments includes a diverse assortment of stakeholders that can collectively come up with solutions for legislation in the 2023 regular session that can help solve some of these difficult housing issues faced by cities throughout the state.

If the bill is passed and the task force formed, I would be more than willing to represent the City as one of those with a population less than 3,000 and with natural hazards imposing development limitations on a significant portion of land within the acknowledged UGB.

Having spent five years working in the Legislature, I've seen the positive impact that task forces can have in developing constructive legislation in the true spirit of the Oregon Way and am happy to do my part to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'W. Scott Jorgensen', written over a horizontal line.

W. Scott Jorgensen, Executive MPA
City Administrator