



February 9, 2023

TO: Chair Dexter, members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
FROM: Association of Oregon Counties Legislative Affairs Manager, Michael Burdick
RE: AOC support for HB 3138

Dear Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee,

I offer this testimony in support of HB 3138 on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) which has represented Oregon's county governments since 1906.

Rural regions of Oregon face certain additional challenges when it comes to promoting economic revitalization and addressing issues like the current crisis-level shortage of housing. In addition, when it comes to pursuing these goals, rural regions face extra constraints around resources and tools that are available, as well as organizational and institutional capacity.

The Regional Rural Revitalization Strategies Consortium helps fill in these gaps and plays an important role in leveraging the efforts of constituent partners toward having a greater impact than would be possible were they all acting alone. The Consortium is able to pool resources and take advantage of economies of scale so that efforts can be more efficient and productive.

The appropriation in HB 3138 would provide critical building blocks for the continued success of this collaborative effort, allowing the Consortium to provide planning, infrastructure, capital equipment, and pre-development support for the development of housing.

We appreciate the committee taking the time to work on this important issue.

Best,

Michael Burdick
Legislative Affairs Manager for Community Development