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Date: March 8, 2023
To: OREGON LEGISLATIVE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
AND HOMELESSNESS
From: Scot Siegel, Land Use Planning Director
RE: House Bill 3174 (2023 Regular Session) – Testimony in Support

Chair Dexter and Committee Members: Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3174.

Multnomah County supports House Bill 3174, which provides critical funding to counties and cities for planning that will increase the supply of housing across Oregon. Addressing the housing crisis is a top priority for Multnomah County and we support efforts to reverse inequities and provide needed housing.

Multnomah County collaborates with cities such as Portland, Gresham and Troutdale by way of intergovernmental agreements to provide planning services in the unincorporated areas of the County within the Urban Growth Boundary. The funding provided by HB 3174 is needed to ensure that land can be made available and is planned for housing to be built on the ambitious schedule set by Governor Kotek.

HB 3174 also provides funding for regional housing coordinators in each of the state's 12 economic regions including Region 4 consisting of Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. HB 3174 further provides local government grants in consultation with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and Department Housing and Community Services (OHCS). Multnomah County supports this integrated and collaborative approach to solving our housing challenges.

Specifically, funding provided by HB 3174 for a state housing liaison (supporting the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) and the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), in association with DLCD), will serve cities and counties statewide, as we identify and rectify regulatory barriers to the creation of housing.

HB 3174 also provides for a local government capacity survey, as directed by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services' Office of Economic Analysis, in consultation with DLCD and OHCS. The survey will examine how local government resources are used to process land use appeals, review and issue permits, complete inspections, and revise land use regulations related to housing. The survey will yield valuable information that can be used to improve our business processes and produce needed housing.

Multnomah County looks forward to partnering with Portland metro area governments, as well as DLCD, OHCS, AOC and LOC, in accelerating the production of needed housing across the region, and we believe HB 3174 provides much needed support in order to achieve this outcome.

Thank you for your leadership in addressing the housing crisis.