

City of Roseburg



100 S.E. Douglas Avenue Roseburg, Oregon 97470 | www.cityofroseburg.org | Phone (541) 492-6700

March 6, 2023

Oregon State Legislature

Re: Resources for Rural Communities to Address Homelessness

The City of Roseburg, like many small, rural communities, is facing a homeless crisis with limited resources and support. Communities located in the Balance of State/Rural Oregon Continuum of Care have been historically underfunded by the state and federal government. As a result, these communities have fewer service providers, a greater difficulty accessing scarce resources, and are unable to provide basic amenities due in large part to the threat of litigation. The Governor's recent executive order and proposed budget continue to focus resources in metro areas, which would further compound this disparity.

The Roseburg City Council would like to offer its support for the proposed bills currently being considered by the House and Senate. These bills (Amendment -5 to SB 847-1, and a similar bill being introduced in the House which has not yet been assigned a bill number) will remove at least one major barrier by limiting liability associated with designated safe resting places or urban campgrounds located in communities within Balance of State/Rural Oregon Balance of State Continuum of Care. Limiting liability will provide greater opportunity for these communities to provide basic amenities to their unhoused residents living outside by removing the serious financial concern associated with lawsuits.

On behalf of the City of Roseburg and small, rural communities throughout Oregon, we strongly urge you to approve these bills to help address this critical need.

Sincerely,

Larry Rich, Mayor

Andrea Zielinski, Council President

Shelley Briggs Loosley, Councilor

Ellen Porter, Councilor

Patrice Sipos, Councilor

Brian Prawitz, Councilor

David Mohr, Councilor

Kylee Rummel, Councilor

Ruth Smith, Councilor