



April 24, 2023

Senate Committee on Housing & Development  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB406

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson and members of the Committee:

We are writing this letter in support of SB406, to allow Tillamook County to serve as a pilot project to implement the recommendations of the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis Recommendations Report: Leading with Production (OHNARP). The types of solutions put forth in the OHNARP would greatly improve the challenges we are facing and help increase the availability and affordability of housing on the Oregon Coast.

Based on Tillamook County's Housing Needs Analysis, Tillamook County has a 1% vacancy rate. Lack of housing is impacting workforce recruitment and causing significant economic challenges for local employers like us. People want to live and work in our communities but become discouraged and often withdraw their applications for work once they are unable to secure housing. Positions for medical professionals, nurses and other desperately needed healthcare roles go unfilled for months, even years, due to our housing crisis.

State legislation to prioritize innovative and timely solutions for addressing housing in cities larger than 10,000 residents is important and needed; however, smaller cities face many of the same challenges and with less expertise and resources than larger cities. All seven of Tillamook County's incorporated cities have fewer than 10,000 residents. In addition, lack of buildable lands in Tillamook County necessitates avenues for more flexibility and expediency. This pilot project would allow our cities and unincorporated communities access to the same nimble solutions larger cities will be allowed to explore.

There have been many proactive and collaborative efforts in Tillamook County to address our housing crisis. While we are making progress, much more needs to happen as quickly as possible. We respectfully request your full support of SB406.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Sorg".

Lauren Sorg, Executive Director

*Food Roots, a 501c3 serving Tillamook County by working to grow a robust and equitable food system*