



February 13, 2024

Representative Grayber, Chair
House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4155

Dear Chair Grayber and Committee Members:

The City of Eugene supports HB 4155 as critical to building a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities for funding housing infrastructure statewide. A core priority for the City of Eugene for a number of years, state infrastructure funding is a necessary element of housing development that has been anemic for many years.

This situation needs to change drastically if Oregon is to reach Governor Kotek's goal of producing 36,000 housing units per year. This perspective is shared by many across the state, from cities and associations to the Governor's Housing Production Advisory Council (HPAC), which established a Work Group specifically on 'Financing'. Of the [HPAC's fifteen \(15\) recommendations](#) related to Financing, ten (10) of these are focused on infrastructure financing and funding.

More specifically, the HPAC recommendations include such items as, '*Create a State of Oregon Revolving Infrastructure Loan Fund*', '*Provide a State SDC-backed Infrastructure Loan Fund*', '*Create a Middle-income Housing Fund*', '*Generate New, State-level Revenue to Fund Critical Local Infrastructure*', and '*Reform Oregon's Tax System for Housing Production*' among other recommendations.

As is clear, the need for a comprehensive, data based, and inclusive process is necessary as Oregon works to address our housing stock deficit. While there is understanding that piecemeal efforts to address this situation are what is available during a short session, it is recognized that what Oregon desperately needs is a collective agenda to invest in housing development over the next 20 years. HB 4155 provides the first step in addressing the infrastructure that supports new units. While we have a goal, we have the OHNA, we also need a pathway for funding infrastructure that accounts for federal, state, and local revenue sources.

Please support HB 4155 with a Do Pass recommendation.

Sincerely,
-submitted electronically-
Ethan Nelson
Intergovernmental Relations Manager