



Office of the Tillamook County Housing Coordinator

1510-B Third Street
Tillamook, Oregon 97141

Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

Building (503)842-3407
Planning (503)842-3408
On-Site Sanitation (503)842-3409
FAX (503)842-1819
Toll Free 1 (800)488-8280

Dear House Committee on Economic Development, small Business and Trade,

My name is Parker Sammons, and I am the Housing Coordinator for Tillamook County. In my role as the County Housing Coordinator, I have witnessed firsthand the unique challenges that rural areas face in addressing housing shortages and infrastructure needs. A significant barrier in our communities is the difficulty in securing the resources and expertise necessary to build the housing required to support local residents and workers.

One critical component of addressing this shortage is working closely with local employers. In rural areas, many employers are the primary drivers of local economic growth, and having secure housing options for their workforce is essential. By collaborating with employers, we can ensure that new housing projects are built with a reliable tenant base, which in turn can make these projects more viable and sustainable. However, the capacity to develop these solutions is often limited by a lack of technical expertise and resources at the local level.

House Bill 3104 proposes the creation of a Rural Community Resource Center, which would provide targeted technical assistance to help rural areas navigate the complex processes of grant applications, project management, and resource allocation. This resource center could help facilitate partnerships between local governments, employers, and housing developers to ensure that housing developments are not only built but are aligned with the needs of the local workforce.

Additionally, the establishment of the Rural Community Resource Leverage Fund would offer rural communities the financial support needed to undertake these critical projects. With this funding, rural areas could better leverage partnerships with employers to pre-lease housing, making it more feasible to move forward with much-needed development projects.

Housing coordinators play a key role in connecting local governments, employers, housing developers, and other resources to create tailored solutions that address the specific housing needs of rural communities. House Bill 3104 offers an important opportunity to enhance these partnerships and support sustainable growth in rural communities.

-Parker Sammons

Parker Sammons, MBA

Tillamook County Housing Coordinator

Parker.Sammons@TillamookCounty.gov