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March 31, 2025

The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and members of the Committee,

I am Erica Mills, CEO of NeighborWorks Umpqua and a member of Governor Kotek's Housing Production Advisory Council. I write to express my strong support for House Bill 3921, which approves the City of Roseburg's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) exchange. This bill is a critical step in addressing the severe shortage of housing that is undermining the vitality of our local economy and the well-being of families throughout our community.

For many years, Roseburg has suffered from a lack of housing options for our workforce. Without adequate housing stock, essential sectors—from education and healthcare to law enforcement—struggle to recruit and retain staff, triggering a cascade of declining services and amenities in our community. The urban growth boundary swap authorized in this legislation will allow us to reconfigure our city boundaries to unlock development-ready land. By removing regulatory obstacles and expediting housing production, this measure will strengthen our local economy and improve the lives and outcomes of families throughout our rural community.

During my time on Governor Kotek's Housing Production Advisory Council, I saw firsthand the significant barriers that have stymied housing production. The Council's February 2024 report highlighted the urgent need for an Expedited UGB Expansion. This strategy aligns with Governor Kotek's Executive Order 23-04—which targets the production of 36,000 homes per year—and demonstrates a proactive approach to rapidly increasing the housing supply in areas like Roseburg that are facing acute shortages.

The passage of House Bill 3921 will not only streamline the process for housing production but also support economic recovery by ensuring that our workforce has access to housing inventory. This, in turn, will attract a stable workforce, reduce commuting challenges, and bolster local businesses across the region.

I urge you to support this bill and help pave the way for a future where housing production meets the pressing needs of our community. Thank you for your consideration and your commitment to ensuring that all Oregonians have a place to call home.

Sincerely,
Erica Mills

Erica Mills, CEO
NeighborWorks Umpqua