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**Public Testimony in Support of House Bill 3939**

**Submitted by Dan Cummings, City Manager, Ontario**

**Date: April 7, 2025**

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and  
Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 3939. My name is Dan Cummings, and I am the City Manager for the City of Ontario. I am writing today to express our city's strong support for this critical legislation, which will provide essential infrastructure funding to support housing development in rural Oregon communities.

Ontario is proud to be home to the Veterans Village project, a vital initiative designed to address the housing needs of veterans in our community. This innovative development will provide safe, affordable housing for those who have served our country, offering not only homes but also access to supportive services that promote stability and well-being. However, like many rural housing projects, the Veterans Village faces a significant barrier: the lack of adequate infrastructure.

House Bill 3939 allocates \$1 million to Ontario for critical infrastructure improvements, including water, sewer, stormwater systems, and streets. These funds are essential to completing the horizontal improvements necessary to make the Veterans Village project viable. Without this investment, we cannot move forward with providing housing for those who have given so much to our nation.

The Veterans Village is more than just a housing project—it is a commitment to our community's veterans. The development will include a mix of single-family homes and multi-family units designed specifically for veterans and their families. Additionally, it will feature on-site amenities such as community gathering spaces and access to health care and job training services in partnership with local organizations. This holistic approach ensures that veterans not only have a place to live but also the resources they need to thrive.

Ontario has long been committed to addressing the housing shortage that affects so many rural communities across Oregon. The Veterans Village project aligns closely with our city's comprehensive plan and Oregon's broader goals of increasing affordable housing options while supporting vulnerable populations. By passing HB 3939, you will enable us to take this critical step toward fulfilling that commitment.

This funding is also an investment in economic development for Ontario. The construction activity associated with the Veterans Village will create jobs and inject millions of dollars into the local economy. Once completed, the project will expand Ontario's property tax base while attracting new residents and businesses to our community.

On behalf of the City of Ontario, I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill 3939. This legislation represents an opportunity not only to address immediate infrastructure needs but also to honor our veterans by providing them with the safe, affordable housing they deserve. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information about this project or its impact on our community.

Sincerely,

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