

April 7, 2025

Oregon State Legislature  
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

*Submitted electronically via OLIS*

**RE: HB 3939, Relating to infrastructure projects**

Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Anderson and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee:

Samaritan Health Services (SHS) is a nonprofit regional health system offering care to Oregonians in Benton, Lincoln, Linn and portions of Marion and Polk counties. Driven by its mission of building healthier communities together, it brings together community hospitals, physician clinics and health insurance plans to serve more than 275,000 residents of the mid-Willamette Valley and central Oregon Coast. We also employ 6,350 employees across the system for which 1,393 call Corvallis or Adair Village home.

Samaritan Health Services supports HB 3939, which would provide funding for the Adair Village Wastewater Infrastructure Project. As a community-based nonprofit health system, Samaritan Health Services is dedicated to serving the health needs of our residents. As we pursue our mission of building healthier communities together, we recognize that safe, affordable housing is a prime social determinant of health.

To serve the health care needs of our community, our organization is continually looking to hire dedicated caregivers into our health system. Recruiting and retaining a qualified workforce is an ongoing challenge. Time and again, as we engage with potential employees and professionals, the lack of affordable housing arises as an influencing factor on whether workers either accept or continue employment in our community.

These new homes will be designed to be affordable, workforce housing units that will bring many working-class families to our community. A benefit not only to our community but to employers like Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center. Obtaining affordable housing near the hospital is an added benefit for our nurses, doctors and additional hospital staff and is key to recruitment and retention.

This project will also invite new families into the community, giving them home ownership access and job opportunity. It is critical that we look to cities – like Adair Village – to find the right spaces for sustainable housing development.

We thank Representative Finger McDonald for bringing this forward and your support to HB 3939.

Sincerely,

Andi Easton  
Government Affairs Director  
Samaritan Health Services