

Submitter: Michelle Jenck  
On Behalf Of: Tillamook County Housing Commission  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5505

Chair and Members of the committee, my name is Michelle Jenck. I serve as the Well-Being Director for Adventist Health Tillamook, Coordinator for Tillamook County Wellness and am also a Tillamook County Housing Commissioner. Our county's critical need for workforce housing intersects all of these roles. This bill's funding would allow the Tillamook Bay Commons, a critical workforce housing project, to move forward. As such, I am writing to request your support of SB 5505.

For the third triennium, our Community Health Needs Assessment has shown lack of housing to be the largest driver of health outcomes in Tillamook County. We have made great strides in bringing more affordable housing into the county. Workforce housing remains very challenging given environmental, zoning and infrastructure limitations in our rural, coastal region. Lack of dedicated funding sources for workforce housing remains a significant barrier as well. Simply put, workforce housing does not pencil out. This is putting a strain on our local economies - particularly in recruiting teachers, healthcare employees and other vital workers to live and work in Tillamook County.

We are very fortunate to have a tenacious, dedicated developer in Maker Development Studios as a partner in this effort. They have gone above and beyond to create a demonstration case for workforce housing that can catalyze development once initiated. Through creation of a non-profit and pre-leasing of units by area businesses, including Adventist Health Tillamook, Maker has garnered nearly all funding needed to get this project to fruition. Due to the loss of federal and state funding opportunities, development of this critical project has been stymied. Funding from this bill can rectify that and get the project moving again. We implore your support as many other doors have been closed after once being open over the past two years it has taken to get this project off the ground.

Tillamook County has been very innovative and forward-thinking in tackling our housing shortages. We are hopeful SB 5505 will provide the necessary funding to help us launch our workforce housing strategy - one that can be self-sustaining into the future. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Michelle Jenck, M.Ed.

Adventist Health Tillamook