



## CITY of REEDSPORT

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To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: City of Reedsport

**RE: Support for HB 5531**

Hello Chair Senator Lieber, Co-Chair Representative Sanchez, Co-Vice Chair Girod, Gomborg and Smith,

For the record my name is Deanna Schafer and I am the City Manager for the City of Reedsport. I am here today to ask for your support for the Reedsport's Cross Creek Subdivision, in the amount of 11,858,300. The project would provide funding to construct critical infrastructure for a new 59 unit subdivision and provide access to an additional 80 plus acres of buildable land. The project is targeted at middle income housing.

The City of Reedsport recently completed a buildable land inventory and housing needs analysis. What this study revealed is that while Reedsport's population is slowly growing it is also shrinking at the same time. According to the last census approximately 12% of our homes are now 2nd homes lending to a lower percentage of occupancy. I suspect that that number is now higher due to the selling war that happened around October of 2022 when homes flew off the market as fast as they came on, often for cash sales. This has resulted in an extreme shortage of rental homes and also driven up the cost of homes here in Reedsport. We recently hired a Community Development Director from Redmond. The family of four are living in a RV in a local park due to the lack of homes available.

It also revealed that a large amount of people that are employed at our two largest employers, Lower Umpqua Hospital and Fred Wahl Marine have to commute over 30 miles from neighboring communities. They both struggle to attract and retain professional, skilled labor due the lack of middle income housing.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deanna Schafer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Deanna" and last name "Schafer" clearly distinguishable.

Deanna Schafer  
City of Reedsport