

**May 9, 2025**

**Esteemed Chair and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Nan Devlin and I serve as a member of the Tillamook County Housing Commission. I write today in strong support of SB5531, which would provide the essential funding needed to advance the Tillamook Bay Commons workforce housing project—a development that is absolutely critical to addressing our region’s most pressing housing needs.

As a Housing Commissioner, I have had a front-row seat to the challenges our county faces in creating and sustaining adequate housing for our workforce. For the third consecutive triennium, our Community Health Needs Assessment has identified lack of housing as the number one factor influencing health outcomes in Tillamook County. With vacancy rates as low as 1% in recent years, and a local economy heavily influenced by tourism, the demand for affordable, workforce-oriented housing has never been greater—nor the gap more severe.

Despite meaningful progress in the realm of affordable housing, workforce housing continues to pose unique and persistent challenges. Environmental restrictions, outdated zoning, and limited infrastructure in our rural, coastal region make these developments difficult to build. Moreover, rising market rates have rendered housing unaffordable for many of our essential workers, including educators, healthcare professionals, and service industry employees. These barriers not only affect individual well-being—they actively undermine the stability of our local economy.

The Tillamook Bay Commons project represents a rare and powerful opportunity to shift this narrative. Maker Development Studios has been a steadfast partner in this work, showing exceptional commitment by forming a nonprofit entity and securing pre-leasing commitments from major employers, including Adventist Health Tillamook. They have leveraged every available tool to bring this project to the brink of construction. What remains is the critical gap that SB5531 can fill.

With bond financing already secured, the funding included in this bill is the final piece needed to move this demonstration project forward. It is a practical, shovel-ready initiative with broad community and business support—one that could serve as a replicable model for other rural communities facing similar workforce housing crises.

Tillamook County has consistently demonstrated leadership in seeking creative, community-centered solutions to our housing shortages. Passage of SB5531 would help ensure that our housing strategy—developed thoughtfully and with collaboration across sectors—can finally move into action.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge your support of SB5531.

Sincerely,

Nan Devlin

Executive Director, Tillamook Coast Visitors Association, and  
Tillamook County Housing Commissioner