



CITY OF PENDLETON

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Chair Taylor, Vice Chair Hayden and Members of the Committee

My name is Robb Corbett, I am the City Manager for the City of Pendleton and I am here today to speak in favor of Senate Bill 1566.

Oregon is suffering from a known housing affordability crisis. After the 2008 recession caused by the mortgage bubble burst, construction had been slow to get back on its feet. This was especially true in slow growing communities like Pendleton.

As our local economy bounced back, the availability of new home construction was slower due to a lack of contractors who had survived the recession. The few builders who remained were focused on the more prosperous communities where their success was more assured.

To attract new home construction in Pendleton, installed public infrastructure at our cost, recovering our expenses through future reimbursement from developers. Every new home in our town means new workers to fill the large number of jobs going unfilled in Pendleton. However, often we would be limited in what we could accomplish because of the requirement Oregon has for local government supported projects to pay prevailing wage, which increases costs by an estimated 30%.

Senate Bill 1566 utilizes a unique approach to addressing a significant problem all across Oregon. It seems logical for the state, desperate for affordable housing, to look at lowering the cost of utilizing public resources to achieve our housing goals.

Thank you.