



February 23, 2015

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Re: HB 2564 – Relating to affordable housing

Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the Committee:

The City of Eugene has long been committed to providing affordable housing options for our community. Over the last twenty years, we have aggressively identified and purchased housing sites, offered incentives (tax exemptions, SDC waivers, permit assistance), and directed federal and local funds towards increasing affordable housing options for residents, including our returning veterans. The City also provides low interest loans for housing rehabilitation. While we have made incremental gains in creating affordable housing options, there continues to be a gap in the inventory available relative to the increasing need. The negative impact of homelessness on our public schools, our health systems, and our public safety systems is well documented.

The passage of House Bill 2564 will provide an additional tool in our local toolbox. While it remains to be determined whether inclusionary zoning is a strategy that would work for Eugene, the decision to consider this additional tool should be delegated to cities as a matter of local control and home rule.

The City of Eugene urges the committee to support House Bill 2564.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Kitty Piercy
Mayor of Eugene