



CITY OF REDMOND
Office of the Mayor

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March 5, 2015

Senator Mark Hass
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

RE: Support for SB 516

Dear Chair Hass and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to encourage you to support Senate Bill 516. This bill is very important to the City of Redmond, Deschutes County and the Central Oregon region.

As you know Deschutes County is one of the fastest growing regions in the state of Oregon. As a result of that growth we are experiencing a significant housing crisis. Rental housing vacancy rates have hovered around 1 % for over a year. This has created a very vulnerable population of people who are being displaced from their rental homes due to market rate increases, especially low and very low income families.

However with this demonstrative need, evidence shows that Deschutes County and the Central Oregon are not receiving their equitable proportion of funds from the recording fee grants for affordable housing. Of the approximately \$4 million dollars collected from Deschutes County only \$1 million dollars has come back to Deschutes County for affordable housing projects.

The City of Redmond is a community that prides itself on supporting our veterans, but we cannot provide adequate housing for their needs. 63% of our senior households are making less than 60% of the county median income, and with their fixed income are being displaced from market rate rental housing. Over 50% of our rental households are contributing more than 35% of their household income towards their rent. These are not sustainable statistics. The Redmond City Council has identified housing supply for residents making 50% or less of average median income as a critical issue for our community. We urge you to support Senate Bill 516. It provides equity and addresses a significant need for our community, our region and our state.

Thank you.

Very respectfully,

George Endicott