



March 25, 2015

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
HB 2126: Relating to the Vertical Housing Development Zone Program**

Clackamas County supports HB 2126: The Board of County Commissioners supports HB 2126, which extends the sunset date of the vertical housing development zone program to January 1, 2026.

The purpose of the Vertical Housing Program is to encourage investment in and rehabilitation of properties in targeted areas of a city or community, to augment the availability of appropriate housing, and to revitalize communities. Eligible projects receive a partial property tax exemption.

Clackamas County communities have the potential to benefit from the property tax exemption for developers who wish to include vertical housing in mixed use developments in our downtown areas. The County is home to multiple redevelopment opportunities, including the Clackamette Cove project area in Oregon City and the McLaughlin corridor, which stretches from the former Blue Heron paper mill site in Oregon City to the North Milwaukie Industrial Area. Rural cities like Canby and Estacada also would benefit, with both cities already working to revitalize their downtown economies through zoning changes and urban renewal plans.

Vertical housing has proven to be an effective use of land to create density and revitalize core business districts. We urge a “yes” vote on HB 2126.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.