



February 5, 2016

Senate Human Services and Early Childhood Committee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 1582 Local Innovations and Fast Track Housing

Dear Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

The City of Beaverton supports SB 1582, Local Innovations and Fast Track (LIFT) program because it offers another much needed resource for affordable housing production. In Beaverton, one of our top priorities is creating a community that provides a wide range of housing options for residents at all income levels. It's how to make a complete community and it's what we work to do every day. However, that can be a serious challenge, particularly in our current climate.

Beaverton residents are experiencing this first hand, particularly as people are priced out of Portland and move to outlying jurisdictions in search of affordability that is now difficult to find in Beaverton as well.

Rapid rent increases as well as the lack of inventory coupled with lagging wage increases exacerbate this problem. Zillow and Multifamily NW report that Beaverton's rental market is among one of the highest in terms of rental increases in the nation and we recently experienced a 6 month average rental increase of 14% - double that of the regional average.

In Beaverton, we work with nonprofit partners to increase production of regulated affordable housing by offering loans, grants, tax abatement programs and other subsidies. We have also acquired property and look to purchase more parcels to assist our partners' construction of affordable housing.

Our efforts, however, are not enough. Demand outpaces supply and we receive calls every day from folks who are losing their homes due to rising rent increases or other hardship.

Beaverton supports the LIFT program because it will provide a stable funding source that will allow the State and its partners to meet at least some of the existing and growing demand for safe affordable housing in Oregon.

I urge your support of SB 1582 and look forward to seeing the benefits of this program in Beaverton. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denny Doyle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denny Doyle
Mayor