

# HOOD RIVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



DAVID MERIWETHER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

601 State Street • Hood River, OR 97031 • (541) 386-3970 • FAX (541) 386-9392

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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February 5, 2016

Senator Michael Dembrow  
900 Court Street NE, S-407  
Salem OR 97301

Dear Senator Dembrow:

The Hood River County Board of Commissioners would like to express our support for SB 1533, an Inclusionary Zoning bill. Developing affordable, workforce housing for the County and City of Hood River is a top priority for the County. Lifting the statewide ban on inclusionary zoning and making it an option for local communities will assist in this effort.

Lack of affordable housing in Hood River has been noted by local business leaders as a major obstacle to economic growth. A study sponsored by the City of Hood River looking at buildable lands inventory and housing needs showed that 40 percent of Hood River renters are paying more than 30 percent of their gross income on housing. The study also indicated the ratio of median owner-occupied housing to median household income has risen from 4.5 times median income in 2000 to 6.4 times median income in 2013.

We respectfully request your support in passing Senate Bill 1533 to provide inclusionary zoning as a policy tool that cities can use to increase the production of affordable housing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Rivers".

Ron Rivers, Chair  
Hood River County  
Board of Commissioners

A Small County with a big mission:  
Providing Quality of Life for all.