



Feb. 21, 2017

Honorable Brian Clem
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2095 Amendment to an Urban Growth Boundary by Metro

Dear Chair Clem, Vice-Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Sprenger, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

As the region's need for housing increases, cities need the flexibility to access buildable land to accommodate growth in areas, such as near Beaverton, where infrastructure can be provided. House Bill 2095 would allow an important opportunity to add land to the urban growth boundary midway through the existing six-year urban growth cycle to respond to housing demand.

Beaverton currently has a deficiency of ownership and rental housing at several income levels. This is documented in the city's 2015 Comprehensive Plan Housing Element update. Since then, housing prices and rental rates have increased significantly. Projections show a deficit of housing units in Beaverton at the lowest income levels, particularly for rentals, which establishes the need for additional housing in the near future. We are developing the South Cooper Mountain area, and there is adjacent urban reserve that could be very helpful sooner rather than later in helping to meet our housing needs.

Currently, the city has prioritized increasing housing for residents. Given the pace of development, the City supports the region having the ability to modestly adjust the urban growth boundary more frequently than every six years so the region can meet housing demand efficiently and affordably.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I urge you to support House Bill 2095.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Twete".

Cheryl Twete
Community Development Director