



**Bill Hall  
County Commissioner**

Courthouse, Room 110  
225 W. Olive Street  
Newport, Oregon 97365  
(541) 265-4100  
FAX (541) 265-4176

March 12, 2017

**Chair Keny-Guyer, Members of the Committee:**

For the record: I am Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Hall, and I am writing to you to support the passage of House Bills 2937 and 2938, which would provide more flexibility in siting dwellings on rural residential and farm properties. These bills have been endorsed by the Association of Oregon Counties, which I serve as president this year. Lincoln County is among the counties that have hardship provisions in their code to allow second homes on properties in these zones on a temporary basis, but under existing state rules, the second dwelling, usually a mobile home or RV, must be removed. The proposal to allow one accessory dwelling unit per parcel is a reasonable one that will not fundamentally change the character of these rural areas.

Commissioner Janet Carlson of Marion County cited one example of the need for this legislation in her written testimony to you. I would like to offer another. Last year, I was contacted by a widower in his eighties who had allowed a young couple who had suffered financial hardships to move into an RV on his property. Although the property owner was still in good health, he was slowing down a bit, and wanted to give the couple a chance to get back on their feet while helping him take care of his home and property. A neighbor complained about the situation, and because the man wasn't in poor enough health to qualify for a hardship exemption, we had to order the RV removed.

You have all heard many stories about the depth of our housing crisis. I am in agreement with Commissioner Carlson that this won't solve the problem by itself, but it is one more tool in what needs to be a very large and versatile tool box.

Thank you for your consideration.

