

Dear Representative McKeown,

I am sorry that I missed the hearing on HB 2937, relating to accessory dwelling units, and 2938, relating to the siting of recreational vehicles for residential purposes. I hope that my comments can still be considered by the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

I am strongly in support of these two bills. We in the city of Eugene have many more unhoused people than we can shelter. Places like the Eugene Mission fill up regularly. The city of Eugene has changed the housing codes to allow for people to set up accessory structures, when invited by home owners, businesses and churches, so that people can have transitional housing and begin the road to working toward having permanent housing. The city also permits car and RV camping in approved areas and these all have worked well to house some people. Despite these measures, when we open our volunteer emergency Egan Warming Centers on nights when temperatures fall below 30 degrees, hundreds of people come in from the cold. When it is raining and 31 degrees, they try to sleep outside as best they can.

If Lane County were able to provide additional dwelling units and RV placement on land zoned rural residential or farmland, it would provide more legal shelter options. The program would be monitored, as is the city's, to reduce problem behavior, and it would enormously help reduce the suffering of unhoused people.

I understand the concern that this will lead to creeping urbanization of farmland. However, because of the provision that these additional dwelling units or RVs are only allowed if placed within 100 feet of an existing single-family dwelling, these bills would not lead to urban sprawl.
Please support HB 2937 and 2938.

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