



February 6, 2018

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4007: Increases the document recording fee.

Dear Chair Keny Guyer, Vice-Chair Olson, Vice-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing;

I am writing to share the City of Beaverton's support for House Bill 4007 which will increase the document recording fee and provide a savings mechanism for first-time homebuyers.

The Mayor and City Council have placed a high priority on increasing affordable housing in the community and we need additional funding sources to address the crisis of affordability we face today, especially deeply affordable housing. Our poverty rate has risen dramatically in the past six years – increasing from 10 to 15%. Without an adequate of supply at a wide range of affordability, our citizens will fall farther behind. We ask that you continue to lead the charge to create new affordable housing funding mechanisms to help us tackle this immense community need.

New funding tools like the document recording fees are critical for jurisdictions to provide stable housing services for our community, including additional funds for emergency rent assistance, enhancing access to homeownership such as down payment assistance, education, counseling and incentivizing developers to build more affordable homes. The savings program for first homebuyers will help ensure that homeownership and the benefits it provides are not beyond the reach of those that want to own their home.

I urge your support of HB 4007. Communities like Beaverton need more resources to assist the growing number of families facing difficulties finding and maintaining the housing they need and can afford. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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

Cheryl Twete
Community Development Director