



February 6, 2018

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

RE: HJR 201: Municipal Bonds for Affordable Housing.

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 HJR 201 which asks voters to amend the Oregon Constitution to allow cities to use certain bonded indebtedness to finance capital costs of affordable housing.

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. With voter approval, this bill would enable municipal bond proceeds to leverage other sources of funding including incentives for affordable housing developers and most importantly, allow a city to distribute funds directly to its partners, reducing costs and delay. This would also provide flexibility in how affordable housing is managed and operated, ensuring the right solutions for each community's housing needs.

I urge your support of HJR 201 to allow voters the opportunity to vote on this constitutional amendment. 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Twete
Community Development Director