

Dear Mr./Ms. Chair,

Thank you for your leadership on the statewide housing affordability crisis. We in Hood River are very pleased to see this critical problem receiving the attention it deserves. It has emerged as our #1 Council priority for the past five years running, and we've been working hard to mitigate our City's problem.

We restricted Short Term Rentals in our residential zones.

We are working with our local housing authority to give them land to build Affordable Housing units; we're currently held up at LUBA but are moving ahead with our remand.

We are working on a large-scale plan for our undeveloped Westside to identify sites for Affordable Housing, increased density, parks, and arterials,

We are about to loosen the parking and residency requirements for ADU's to encourage more construction.

While Hood River, at population 8,000, would be exempt from the current version of HB 2001, many of its goals are in line with what we've been trying to do out here. It's encouraging to see a broader movement across the state; please continue in the direction of facilitating enhanced affordability for all our residents.

Paul Blackburn
Mayor of Hood River