

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

City Manager's Office



225 FIFTH STREET
SPRINGFIELD, OR 97477
541.726.3700
www.springfield-or.gov

March 4, 2019
Honorable Alissa Keny-Guyer
Chair, House Committee on Human Services and Housing
900 Court St. NE., Salem, OR, 97301
Regarding: HBs 2893, 2894, 2895 and 2896.

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Noble and Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:

The City of Springfield is pleased to support a series of bills before you today aimed at stabilizing and improving the availability of manufactured homes in Oregon: HBs 2893, 2894, 2895 and 2896.

Springfield has a relatively large population of manufactured home residents (approximately 1,400 households) currently facing a strong risk of displacement. The City is deeply invested in the development of policy and funding tools to address the challenges experienced in our community and across Oregon. The City of Springfield, along with state and federal partners, engaged Oregon Solutions and coordinated a process to develop a housing and social service assistance response that included a formal action plan and “tool kit” for jurisdictions.

HBs 2894, 2895 and 2896 address urgent and pressing needs faced by manufactured home residents by providing tools and funding for many of the issues identified in the Springfield Collaborative work, including:

- Providing resources to low income homeowners to safely decommission existing homes;
- Providing resources to low income homeowners to purchase new homes; and,
- Ability to acquire land for preservation of current parks.

One issue not addressed within these bills is policy and funding to support the development of new parks as current parks close, an opportunity that is critical to ensuring housing availability for manufactured home residents at risk of displacement. Another piece of legislation we hope to see before you is HB 3313, which creates a grant pilot to develop a new manufactured home park, including a partnership with the Oregon Housing & Community Services Department to report on best practices and lessons learned.

The City of Springfield strives to be a family-friendly community for all people in every phase of life with a diverse housing market that supports employment and families. Ensuring the availability and livability of manufactured homes is a key strategy to increase the supply and accessibility of affordable housing across the housing continuum. We urge your support of HBs 2893, 2894, 2895 and 2896.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Laudati". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Niel Laudati
Legislative and Public Affairs Director