



April 24, 2019

House Committee on Rules
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2006 - Appropriates moneys to Housing and Community Services Department for grants to support services for families seeking or needing housing that have low or very low incomes.

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Williamson, Vice-Chair Wilson and members of the House Committee on Rules,

I am writing to share the City of Beaverton's support for House Bill 2006 which will provide critical resources and support necessary for families in need who are seeking affordable housing through the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department.

More than a third of Beaverton residents are cost burdened, spending more than 30% of their monthly income on housing and more than half of low income families are rent burdened (spending more than 50% of their incomes on housing). The state is a critically important partner in delivering the support services and deeply affordable housing that Oregon communities need. New funding tools are critical for jurisdictions to provide stable housing services for our community, including additional funds for emergency rent assistance, wrap-around services for our vulnerable communities, enhancing access to homeownership such as down payment assistance, education, counseling and incentivizing developers to build more affordable homes.

With support from the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department, communities like Beaverton would be able to leverage state funds with local and regional resources like the Metro Housing Bond to thoroughly provide affordable housing assistance.

Communities throughout the region need more resources to assist the growing number of community members facing difficulties finding and maintaining the housing they need and can afford. The City of Beaverton urges your support of House Bill 2006.

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