



Testimony in Support of House Bill 4015 (-3 amendment)
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Speaker of the House Tina Kotek
February 10, 2020

Chair Keny-Guyer, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the -3 amendment to House Bill 4015. The amendment replaces the underlying bill.

This bill contains two technical fixes to House Bill 2003 from the 2019 session. That bill was designed to help our state reach its housing supply needs and improve our implementation of Goal 10, our statewide housing goal.

The first technical fix addresses an issue that the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) raised regarding their ability to spend all the technical assistance funding the Legislature allocated because of the timelines now outlined in statute.

Basically, we asked them to distribute money to local governments but did not get the details perfect. HB 2003 stipulated the timeline for cities to complete their respective housing needs analyses (HNA). The first deadline for cities to update these HNAs must be at least two years after the adoption of administrative rules for housing production strategies. However, the deadline for adopting administrative rules for housing production strategies is no later than one year after the deadline for updating HNAs. Due to this, DLCD is not expected to consider the rules for housing production strategies until late summer this year. This means it may not be possible to spend the entire allocation on HNAs before the end of the current biennium. Therefore, DLCD has requested some flexibility in spending those technical assistance dollars and be allowed to spend funds on other important housing affordability and supply work slated to be completed in 2020. Otherwise, they might lose the ability to use those dollars.

The second technical fix clarifies that cities within Metro are required to complete their HNAs. Cities with populations above 25,000 within Metro must complete their analyses on the schedule DLCD sets. Metro oversees urban growth boundary expansion planning decisions, and this created some confusion regarding the division of labor for the HNAs, i.e., whether Metro itself or the cities within its boundaries were being required to do the analyses. The proposed language clarifies this and the requirement for cities within Metro to complete the HNA themselves.

DLCD is here today to answer any questions you may have or clarify the need for these two fixes. I encourage your support of the -3 amendment. Thank you.