



February 18, 2020

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Deschutes County Support for Rural ADU Amendments to HB 4014

Dear Chair Dembrow:

We are very supportive of the newly released -6 amendments to House Bill 4014, which would permit rural ADUs on residential lands. As you know, Deschutes County is Oregon's fastest growing county and we face a critical shortage of affordable housing options for our growing population. If this topic is not addressed in this year's short session, we will be even further behind in addressing our region's growing housing needs.

The proposed amendments will allow us to:

- Provide housing without significant public resources;
- Increase the supply of rental, supportive and multigenerational housing;
- Legalize some existing, unpermitted second dwelling units; and
- Increase the affordability of housing by allowing property owners to purchase or maintain a home with rental income from the ADU or from the primary dwelling if living in the ADU.

We know that in other parts of the state, there has been concern that allowing rural ADUs will negatively impact the rural nature of Oregon's farmland. That is not the case in Deschutes County. We have a large number of rural home sites not connected to farm use. Also, substantial support for this measure exists in our County. Allowing rural ADUs could be a valuable tool in helping us alleviate the housing shortage we are currently experiencing. We encourage the Committee to provide local control to counties to determine development standards and limitations governing ADUs as is currently referenced in the -6 amendments.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact any of the Commissioners below or Laura Skundrick, by phone at 541-330-4627 or by email at Laura.Skundrick@deschutes.org.

Sincerely,

DESCHUTES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Patti Adair, Chair

Anthony DeBone, Vice Chair

Philip G. Henderson, Commissioner