



December 11, 2021

Joint Committee on the Second Special Session of 2021  
900 Court St. NE, Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

**RE: City of Beaverton Supports Appropriation to Entitlement Cities for Affordable Housing**

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and Fahey and Members of the Joint Committee on the Second Special Session of 2021:

The City of Beaverton is highly encouraged by the inclusion of a \$1,000,000 appropriation to Beaverton for programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness (*LC 6, Second Special Session 2021*). This critical investment is needed to help ensure that residents have access to stable, affordable housing during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

The City of Beaverton is well-prepared to deliver on the objectives of this appropriation. Resources would be used to support the following critical needs:

- Execute the City's Five-Year Housing Action Plan, which includes goals for affordable rental housing, affordable home ownership, the preservation of affordable housing stock, and services to help residents remain in their homes. Beaverton's Five-Year Housing Action Plan is an example of the City's commitment to addressing affordability challenges.
- Accomplish the goals of the Metro Affordable Housing Bond and the creation of a minimum of 231 new affordable homes accessible to Beaverton residents. While the Metro Bond resources are substantial, those funds need to be blended with other public and private funding sources to ensure the feasibility of projects, including the completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> projects in Beaverton.
- Increase rental assistance to the community utilizing the City's established relationships with community-based organizations serving BIPOC renters, including APANO, Centro Cultural, and the Muslim Educational Trust. New applications for assistance continue to come in at a rapid rate and the State has run out of available funds to pay for new applications.
- Help realize the City's affordable housing goals which were prioritized for funding through the City's direct allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The City of Beaverton is home to close to 100,000 residents of all ages and backgrounds: one in three Beaverton residents identifies as a person of color, roughly 20 percent were born outside of the U.S., and more than 100 languages are spoken in the Beaverton School District. This richness of cultural diversity is what makes Beaverton such a vibrant city. Unfortunately, such vibrancy is not enjoyed by all Beaverton residents.

Based on the 2021 Point in Time Count, over 700 Beaverton residents are currently experiencing homelessness. Over 45% of renting households in Beaverton are rent burdened, paying over 30% of their income in rent costs. Close to 25% of renting households in Beaverton are severely rent burdened, paying over 50% of their income in housing. Affordable homeownership is becoming a distant dream to mid- and low-income families and for members of our Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to lend our support to your efforts. We appreciate the confidence shown in the City by this proposed allocation and look forward to delivering more housing options and greater housing security to our community this biennium.

Sincerely,

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

Mayor Lacey Beaty  
City of Beaverton