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Date: February 3, 2021

To: The Honorable Julie Fahey, Chair
House Committee On Housing

From: Multnomah County Department of Community Services
Land Use Planning Division

RE: HB 2655 (2021 Regular Session)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2655, which prohibits counties from establishing a minimum lot size of more than one acre for residential zoned land.

HB 2655 amends ORS 215.501, which is specific to accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in rural residential zones. Specifically Section 2 of the bill adds the following:

“A county may not require a minimum size of more than one acre for a lot or parcel that is zoned for rural residential use, as defined in ORS 215.501.”

It is not clear whether the amendment is intended to be limited to specific circumstances involving ADUs in rural residential zones, as regulated by ORS 215.501, or if it is intended to apply broadly to all rural residential zones independent of whether an ADU is proposed.

We recommend and respectfully request an amendment clarifying the intended scope of the bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide these comments. We look forward to reviewing future revisions to HB 2655.