



April 29, 2021
House Committee on Housing
900 Court St. NE.
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 141A

Dear Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee:

The LOC represents all of Oregon's 241 cities across the state, which continue to face escalating rates of homelessness and a severe shortage of affordable and available housing. The LOC is engaged this session as your committed partner in both crafting and implementing sound policies to reduce barriers to affordable housing development and help increase our state's supply of needed housing.

The Vertical Housing Development Program (VHDZ) is an important local-option tool that cities use to encourage both increased housing density and affordable housing development for mixed-use projects in locally designated areas.

SB 141A updates the VHDZ program by strengthening the incentive for developers to include additional housing units in their projects. It clarifies the current methodology and allows partial floors to be counted for the abatement. This maximizes development in any project without granting more in abatements than what is developed.

Cities need all the tools we can get to help encourage housing development. SB 141A improves an existing, proven program. We urge your support.

Sincerely,
Ariel Nelson, League of Oregon Cities