



February 23, 2021
Representative Julie Fahey, Chair
House Committee on Housing
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 2006 and HB 2004

Dear Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for HB 2006 and HB 2004, which will expedite the siting of much needed shelter and invest in shelter capacity across Oregon.

As cities large and small continue to face escalating rates of homelessness, the LOC is advocating on behalf of Oregon's 241 cities to increase critical state investments in housing and services programs across the housing spectrum. While shelter is not a permanent solution to homelessness, we need more shelters to provide a safe place to sleep for people experiencing homelessness while we work to create more safe, stable, and affordable homes.

The LOC is also engaged this session as your committed partner to craft and implement sound state policy to reduce barriers to needed shelter and housing. At least five cities sited multiple shelters under the shelter siting provisions passed in HB 4212 in the 2020 1st Special Session. Cities learned from their experiences reviewing and approving shelter siting applications and appreciate the Speaker's willingness to incorporate some minor changes into HB 2006 to improve local implementation.

The LOC is a proud member of Project Turnkey, which under the skilled leadership of the Oregon Community Foundation is helping communities purchase hotels to provide their residents with safe non-congregate shelter during the pandemic. HB 2006 and HB 2004 will help site more Project Turnkey shelters around the state and quickly open doors for more Oregonians to access shelter. We urge your support.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Ariel Nelson, League of Oregon Cities