



CITY OF HOOD RIVER

211 2nd Street, Hood River, OR 97031 Phone: 541-386-1488

February 7, 2022

Chair Fahey and Housing Committee Members:

The City Council for the City of Hood River expresses its support for HB 4123, the proposed City-County Coordinated Homeless Response Pilot Program. This program will fund eight pilots throughout the state to engage in strategic planning, implement responsive services, and to plan for long-term sustainability in funding and operations to best serve residents experiencing homelessness.

The City of Hood River is pleased to join The City of The Dalles, Hood River County, Sherman County, and Wasco County in partnership for this pilot project. Each of these jurisdictions have been investing in solutions at their local levels. The City of Hood River has demonstrated a commitment to addressing issues of homelessness by purchasing Pallet Shelters with its CARE funding, through its financial support for the Hood River Severe Weather Shelter, the creation of a 2020 homelessness stakeholders' coalition strategic plan, and a contract to provide direct outreach during the first year of the pandemic.

While these efforts have been successful, we know that homelessness is an issue best addressed at a regional level by people with subject expertise. Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCACC), with support from Providence Health Systems, has already taken steps to develop a five-year regional strategic plan to prevent and eliminate homelessness. They are the ideal agency to lead this effort.

The impact of the dollars provided by this bill would be felt in the community for years to come. The pilot project established by this bill would build on the region's successes by providing the means to implement the upcoming strategic plan, continue coordination, and set a path for financial sustainability.

We strongly encourage your support for this bill and appreciate the opportunity to address one of the most pressing issues in our city and in our state.