

Submitter: Becky Crockett
On Behalf Of: Curry County Planning Director
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources
Measure: SB835

Thank you for your consideration of SB835. This bill would provide additional opportunities for much needed housing across the State of Oregon. The intent of the bill is to simply allow an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) to tie into an existing residential septic system provided there is capacity in the existing system.

You have already enacted legislation which allows ADUs on residential properties both inside and outside Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs). This has been effective in adding housing units. However, the DEQ prohibition on allowing an ADU to connect to an existing septic system has halted as many ADUs as have been allowed.

The cost of constructing a septic system now runs between \$18,000. - \$22,000. depending on the capacity, soil conditions and type of system required. For most residential single family construction people opt for a larger (usually 4 bedroom) system if they have room for the additional leach lines because the cost differential between a 2-bedroom and 4-bedroom septic system is only about \$1500. The result is that there is excess capacity on many single-family residential lots. The current practice of requiring construction of an additional septic system on a site for an ADU that already has septic capacity ignores common sense. Further, the high cost of constructing a whole new system for the ADU has limited multiple opportunities for housing, angered the public, and eroded confidence in Oregon government.

Passage of this bill would grant DEQ the authority to allow an ADU to tie into an existing septic system ONLY where there is capacity to do so. There is no compromise of environmental safeguards, no continuance of costly roadblocks for housing, and no wasteful installation of unnecessary infrastructure. We cannot continue to ignore opportunities to help Oregonians secure housing. So, please pass SB835 and allow DEQ this allowance that makes common sense.