

Submitter: Representative Jeff Helfrich

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2001

As I am unable to be in person today for the Public Hearing and Work Session on House Bill 2001, I appreciate the opportunity to still share my comments.

I support House Bill 2001 and the -11 amendment. I appreciate the bipartisan work that has gone into this bill, including from Chair Dexter, Chair Jama, and Senator Anderson. On a personal level I am very humbled and proud to have played a small part in making this bill a reality. There have been many long hours and numerous conversations with stakeholders as we've worked toward meeting the Governor's 60-day timeline for bills to be on her desk.

One portion of the -11 that I am particularly proud of is the funding for agricultural workforce housing which will aid Oregon's agricultural producers in providing safe housing to farmworkers. In my view, this amendment signals to our rural and agriculture community and businesses (like those in areas which I represent) that they are included as part of this housing package and provides an opportunity for farm companies to ensure that they are both up to date with regulatory safety requirements while also providing quality, safe housing for farmworkers. It is critical that this, and other housing packages provide opportunities statewide, not just in the metropolitan areas. This provision is a small, yet important step in that direction and is a welcome addition to a larger housing policy debate and program.

I am also pleased with the inclusion of Senator Anderson's amendment which includes funding for local governments or housing developers for infrastructure development and predevelopment costs for moderate income projects.

However, many of my colleagues and I still have concerns that we have not done enough to make it easier for builders to quickly and affordably construct the 36,000 housing units needed annually to meet our state's housing demands. HB 2001 simply does not significantly reduce the red tape or overall costs to develop more housing supply.

Lastly, I would like to note that this bill is not the end of our work; it is just the start. But it is a good start. A positive start. A start that the Committee and the Legislature can build on.

I look forward to continuing our work with the legislature and the Governor's office and am optimistic about the substantive policy debates and future discussions we can have about additional housing issues to supplement the work done in this

package.

Thank you.