April 5th, 2023



TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction FROM: Brittany Quick-Warner, President & CEO of Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce RE: Support City of Eugene's Crow Road Housing Project

The Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to finding solutions to address our region's housing crisis. Our members have expressed deep concern about the impact of Oregon's housing crisis on their livelihood and ability to stay located in Oregon; we support the City of Eugene's request for state funds for the Crow Road Housing Project.

The \$3.5 million in requested funding from the state would help address a critical lack of housing in Eugene. The City will need to produce an average of 1,200 housing units a year to support its expected population growth and alleviate a housing shortage, according to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

We are one of the most rent-burdened communities in Oregon -- with 31 percent of households spending more than half of their income on rent -- and we have a high rate of homelessness.

The combination of rapidly rising housing prices and low vacancy rates are making it difficult for people to find housing that meets their needs. Companies that want to expand are having difficulty attracting employees to Eugene because of increased housing costs and lack of housing options.

It is estimated this largely undeveloped area can bring 1,260 housing units and over 850 jobs to the region.

Currently, the area is not served by wastewater or water infrastructure. The requested state funding would help deliver wastewater service to West 11th Avenue and Crow Road and adjacent areas, widen Crow Road to support people walking and biking, and install facilities to extend potable water.

Oregon's housing crisis requires that state and local governments collaborate on efforts to produce more housing. We look forward to continuing to work with others in Eugene to address our region's housing and homelessness needs.

We urge you to support the City of Eugene's request for state funds in the Crow Road Housing Project.

Sincerely,

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Brittany Quick-Warner President & CEO, Eugene Chamber of Commerce