



February 13, 2024

Representative Dacia Grayber, Chair
House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
900 Court St NE, H-492
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 4155

Dear Chair Grayber and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges you to support House Bill 4155, which directs the Oregon Business Development Department to evaluate tools the state may use to reduce the cost of public infrastructure projects – including those that are needed to enable the production of new housing.

A lack of necessary infrastructure – such as water, sewer, roads and sidewalks – frequently makes it impossible for local jurisdictions and developers to expand the supply of housing needed in their communities. Smaller jurisdictions are particularly challenged to fund the high cost of infrastructure expansion.

Hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure spending is being considered by the Legislature during the 2024 session in an effort to jumpstart housing construction. By identifying mechanisms to reduce infrastructure costs, HB 4155 can point the way to spending finite infrastructure dollars more effectively.

The Housing Alliance is a coalition of over 100 member organizations, including city and county governments, tenant organizations, community action agencies, homeless service providers, and affordable housing developers from across the state. From these various positions within Oregon's affordable housing landscape, our members have overwhelmingly voted to endorse HB 4155. We call on the committee to join us in supporting this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Herrington".

Cameron Herrington
Director of Policy and Advocacy
cherrington@neighborhoodpartnerships.org