



City of Cave Junction • Home of the Oregon Caves

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House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Chair Rep. Dexter
Vice Chair Breese-Iverson
Vice Chair Gamba

REF: Support HB 4134 w/Amendment 1

The City of Cave Junction, population 2160 is able to employ only 12 people to run this city and provide services. Three of those employees work indoors in administration and all of us do the job of 2 or 3 people every day. The city's budget is small and doesn't allow support outside of basic services. We require funding from Small Cities Grants to keep our roads safe and maintained and we prioritize other projects based on when we can apply for and hopefully receive other grants to support the project.

Our population is made up of primarily elderly and low-income families. The community continually faces challenges, a shut-down of logging, our mills closed, loss of O&C funds, COVID, and now annual forest fires. Still this community works to survive and find quality of life. The people here value the wonderful four seasons, the mountains, clean rivers and streams, and a beautiful coastline only minutes away. This is where they want to raise their families, but the basic need of shelter has grown impossible. We need affordable housing.

With the loss of jobs and increasing costs of materials and labor, developers can't build homes quickly enough or afford to sell them at affordable prices. Rental homes are charging upwards of \$1800.00/month, higher than many mortgage payments. Families are co-existing just to afford shelter and food.

Among so many challenges, the State of Oregon sees the serious lack of housing and recognizes that housing is the platform of a solid community. The State has imposed various mandates to provide solutions but hasn't provided financial backing.

HB 4134 is a start to solving our housing crises. With financial support for infrastructure, developers will build homes and sell them at affordable prices.

If the city of Cave Junction receives this grant, we will have 60 new homes and possibly an apartment complex. These homes can then be sold at prices that our workforce can afford. It's not the final answer but it is a huge start and one that this community would greatly appreciate.

Please support HB 4134. Give the City of Cave Junction and other cities a chance.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Patton

City Recorder

City of Cave Junction