

Public Testimony in Support of House Bill 3939

Submitted by Darin Henry, Owner, Miller Springs Development

Date: April 7, 2025



Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Andersen, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, and Members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 3939. My name is Darin Henry, and I am the owner of Miller Springs Development, a housing project located in the City of Burns. I am here today to emphasize the importance of this legislation in addressing critical infrastructure needs that directly impact housing development in rural Oregon.

Miller Springs is a transformative project that will bring much-needed housing to Burns, a community facing significant challenges in meeting its housing demand. With support from the Regional Rural Revitalization Strategies Consortium (R3), we have already secured \$2.8 million in funding for vertical construction across multiple sites. This investment ensures that new homes can be built—but without adequate infrastructure funding, these projects cannot be completed.

House Bill 3939 provides \$3 million to Burns for essential infrastructure improvements, including water, sewer, streets, and private utilities. These funds are vital for completing the horizontal improvements necessary to support the construction of new housing units at Miller Springs and other developments in the area.

This funding will enable Miller Springs to deliver housing targeted at workforce households earning up to 130% of the area median income (AMI). These homes are designed to address Burns' most pressing housing needs while ensuring affordability for all residents. Moreover, this project aligns with Oregon's broader goals of increasing workforce housing availability and fostering economic growth in rural communities like ours.

The passage of HB 3939 will not only benefit Burns, but will also serve as a model for how state resources can leverage private investments to create impactful public-private partnerships. By funding infrastructure improvements, this bill ensures that developments like Miller Springs can move forward efficiently and effectively to provide homes for families who live and work in our community.

I strongly urge you to support HB 3939 and help us take this critical step toward solving Oregon's housing crisis. For Burns, this funding is an opportunity to build a stronger future for our residents and businesses alike.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am available to answer any questions you may have regarding Miller Springs or our broader housing efforts in Burns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darin Henry". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Darin Henry, Owner
Miller Springs Development