



February 6, 2018

Representative Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: City of Eugene Support for HB 4007

The City of Eugene supports the provisions of HB 4007 which will increase the current Document Recording Fee for affordable housing projects and create a First Time Homebuyers program.

Eugene residents are deeply concerned by the limited affordable housing opportunities in our community. I have heard from many people who are struggling to find, afford, and maintain a stable place to call home. We know that stable access to decent, safe, and affordable housing is the cornerstone for educational achievement, health, and economic prosperity.

The City of Eugene has been proud to work in partnership with the Oregon Legislature, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Lane County, and nonprofit partners to create thousands of affordable rental and homeownership opportunities over many years. Recently, our partners utilized a \$200,000 General Housing Account Program (funded by document recording fees) grant to the 2015 Bascom Village project in addition to the state's LIHTC allocation. These additional funds are critical to maintain and build our collective level of support for affordable housing development and preservation, emergency rent assistance, and homeownership opportunities.

Oregon communities are bracing for decreased value in tax credit programs for use in affordable housing projects, and this loss in value will create larger funding gaps for future projects. In Eugene, local partners are implementing downtown housing projects such as HACSA's Market District Commons, which will rely heavily on state and local funding sources. As Eugene explores options to create new local resources to augment our existing programs, additional state resources are crucial to increase housing opportunities.

I urge your support for expansion of the document recording fee and vote to pass HB 4007.

Sincerely,

Mayor Lucy Vinis