



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 100-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

February 10, 2020

To: House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair  
Email: [hhs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hhs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: [HB 4084](#) – Funding Rural System Development Charges Program Pilot – **SUPPORT**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports our statewide land use planning program that includes Goal 10, Housing. We also support the need for local jurisdictions to fund needed infrastructure for the public health and safety of their citizens. Small rural cities often do not have the ability to subsidize infrastructure costs.

This committee has had discussions regarding the cost of developing of truly “affordable” housing. We know that providing housing for those at or below 60 percent of the area median income will need public investment. This legislature has recently made major investments in developing a wide range of housing units. HB 4084 is an attempt to help small rural areas of Oregon in dire need of new affordable multifamily residential units. Investing \$750,000 as a pilot to see if that additional incentive will help move these units into construction and eventual housing for low income Oregonians is a great opportunity that may help increase the supply of rural affordable multifamily housing.

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) would create and implement the Rural System Development Charges Program. The agency will then use the appropriated funds to pay system development charges assessed by a rural government only if the charges are triggered by a building permit for the construction of multifamily housing or for the addition of dwelling units to multifamily housing for our low-income neighbors.

As a pilot program, funding this incentive to help move proposed projects into construction and eventual housing for low income Oregonians is a great opportunity to meet a critical need for our rural communities.

**The League encourages your support for this innovative legislation.** Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

Peggy Lynch  
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator

Debbie Aiona & Nancy Donovan  
LWVOR Housing Portfolio

Cc: Rep. Rick Lewis  
Rep. David Brock-Smith