

To Representative Williamson:

I am the executive director of Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH), a non-profit housing developer that works in Washington County and SW Portland. CPAH has been here for over two decades, however I myself am new to the organization and am starting my fourth month. I am so excited to be working here and to be able to focus on the delivery of affordable housing. I know from my experience over the last 25 years that having a safe and stable place to live is a platform for a good life. It is not possible to achieve success in work, health or family without someplace to live. There is no way to consistently meet even the most basic needs without a home.

Unfortunately it is also true that the shortage of affordable housing and the renter state of emergency have reached a crisis point in Oregon. The legislature is considering some initial bold actions to address this problem. I urge you to support the Housing Alliance agenda which includes reasonable tenant protections, lifting the state's ban on inclusionary zoning, and investing resources to build and preserve affordable housing as well as to prevent and end homelessness. In particular, I am writing today to support the tenant protections afforded through HB 4143.

I am hoping I can count on you to support these policy tools and resources to begin to impact this housing crisis. The families, seniors, working poor and people with disabilities that CPAH serves require that we work harder and better to find ways to provide housing. I am looking forward to doing just this but we need your help.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Rachael Duke, Executive Director  
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