



Columbia Cascade Housing Corp.

February 5th, 2018

House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Keny Guyer, Vice-Chair Olson, Vice-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joel Madsen and I am the Executive Director of Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation. Our organization promotes and administers affordable housing solutions in the rural counties of Sherman, Wasco and Hood River in Oregon. We achieve our mission through; 1.) developing and owning affordable housing, 2.) connecting our program participants and residents with appropriate services in the community, and 3.) working with current and future homeowners.

In every community in our state there are residents who struggle to make ends meet. They are often forced to choose between paying rent and putting food on the table. While we love to talk about the great work of our organization we see these same struggles occurring across the communities we serve. We need to do more to make sure that everyone has a safe, stable, affordable place to call home. This is why I am encouraging you to support HB 4007.

The Document Recording fee funding is critical to the communities we serve. With these State investments, we have provided down payment assistance to over 15 families. The Document recording fees have also provided a reliable source of support for our Regional Housing Resource Center that provides non-biased information to people of all income levels. We were able to provide Homebuyer Education classes to almost 60 people in the last 12 months. In the next twelve months we look forward to continuing our work toward developing new multifamily affordable apartment homes leveraging this important State resource with Federal, local and private resources.

We know that health habits take root more easily in stable, affordable homes. We know that children achieve better results in school when they live in a stable, affordable home. For these reasons and many more I ask for your support of HB 4007 and thank you for your attention to the housing needs in our State.

Sincerely,

Joel Madsen
Executive Director
Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation

