

February 6, 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:

The Intergovernmental Housing Policy Board (HPB) urges your support for HB 4007, increasing the document recording fee to \$75.

The Intergovernmental Housing Policy Board was created almost 30 years ago by Lane County and the cities of Eugene and Springfield. We act as a forum for public input into issues related to affordable housing. We study housing issues and make policy, funding, and other recommendations regarding affordable housing to the local jurisdictions. The mission of the HPB is to increase the availability of decent, affordable housing for low and very low income families and individuals in Lane County.

This region is experiencing the same housing crisis that is effecting most of Oregon, including rapidly rising rents and sales prices, insufficient permanent supportive housing, significant gaps in affordable inventory for the lowest income residents (and, increasingly, even middle income residents), and affordable housing in need of long term preservation. We know, for example, that 61% of Eugene renters are cost burdened, and we have a deficit of 13,500 units affordable to very low income residents.

HPB has been looking at this reality against a backdrop of shrinking federal resources for affordable housing, and grappling with the clear need for additional state and local funding to help address this crisis. We urge the legislature to support HB 4007 and increase the document recording fee. The revenue from this fee supports a strong network of nonprofit affordable housing organizations in our community, including St. Vincent de Paul, Cornerstone Housing, NEDCO, Homes for Good (formerly HACSA), and Shelter Care. These organizations utilize document recording fee dollars for emergency rent assistance, first time homeownership programs, and developing more affordable housing units in our community.

Safe, affordable housing is a necessity for our communities and for Oregon. It's a strong predictor of health, education, and food security, and many other core issues. Increasing the document recording fee to \$75 is an important step toward addressing the housing crisis in our state.

Sincerely,

J, Norton Cabell, chair  
Intergovernmental Housing Policy Board