



HOUSING ALLIANCE

June 10, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Gomberg, members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance in strong support of HB 2002A, which help to maintain existing affordable housing across Oregon.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a coalition of ninety organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the foundation on which all of our success is built – individual success as students, parents, workers, and community members as well as the success of our communities. We represent a diverse set of voices including non-profit housing developers, residents of affordable housing, local jurisdictions, and organizations working to meet basic needs in every corner of our state.

We believe that all Oregonians need a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

In every corner of Oregon, apartment homes have been built to make sure families, seniors, and people with disabilities have safe, stable, and affordable housing. Over the years, we've built thousands of affordable apartment homes in towns and cities across Oregon. Some of these affordable apartment homes were built by private owners using resources from the federal government, including rental assistance which helps households with low incomes to pay the rent every month. In many of our smaller communities, these buildings are the only affordable apartment homes available.

These apartment homes have provided stability, safety, and affordability for area residents for the last thirty-plus years. The people who live in these rental homes are seniors, people experiencing disabilities, and families just starting out.

HB 2002A will help to maintain these affordable apartment homes for the next generation. HB 2002A provides an opportunity to purchase these buildings, and maintain them as affordable housing. This right of first refusal will help prevent the loss of critical affordable housing in our communities. HB 2002A also adjusts important timelines for notification that a building may be considering selling or opting out of their expiring contracts, which will support local jurisdictions to prevent the loss of housing for residents and communities.

Lastly, we also urge you and members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction to invest \$100 million lottery bond resources to preserve existing affordable housing, which is critical to our efforts to maintain these properties. This will provide an opportunity to assist in purchasing these properties, and to reinvest in these homes and ensure they will be safe and available for the next generation.

These resources will help make sure the housing remains decent and affordable for another generation. Just like schools or hospitals, affordable rental homes are part of our community's infrastructure, and need investments to ensure the homes are around for the next generation. Investments will ensure this precious resource continues to be available for generations of Oregonians to come.

Affordable housing is an important part of our community infrastructure, and the people who call these apartments home are vital members of our community. We need to make sure we're taking care of the affordable rental homes built in communities across Oregon – these homes are critical to our future. We need to protect these important community assets and the people that call them home.

We urge you to support HB 2002A.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison McIntosh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison McIntosh
On Behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance

Housing Alliance Members

1000 Friends of Oregon

211info

A Community Together (Lane County)

Aging in the Gorge

Benton County Health Department

Benton Habitat for Humanity

Bienestar

Bradley Angle

BRIDGE Housing

CASA of Oregon

Central City Concern

Church Women United of Lane County

City of Beaverton

City of Eugene

City of Hillsboro

City of Portland

City of Tigard

Clackamas County

Coalition of Community Health Clinics

Coalition of Housing Advocates

Common Ground OR-WA

Community Action Partnership of Oregon

Community Alliance of Tenants

Community Energy Project

Community Housing Fund

Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Community Vision

Cornerstone Community Housing

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Enterprise Community Partners

Evolve Property Management

Fair Housing Council of Oregon

Farmworker Housing Development Corp.

FOOD for Lane County

Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County

Habitat for Humanity of Oregon

Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East

Hacienda CDC

Housing Authority of Clackamas County

Housing Development Center

Housing Oregon

Human Solutions

Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization

Impact Northwest

JOIN

Lane County Health and Human Services

League of Women Voters of Oregon

Lincoln County

Mainstream Housing Inc.

Metro

Mid-Columbia Housing Authority

Momentum Alliance

NAYA Family Center

Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.

Neighborhood Partnerships

NeighborImpact

NeighborWorks Umpqua

Network for Oregon Affordable Housing

Nightingale Public Advocacy Project

Northwest Housing Alternatives

Northwest Pilot Project

Oregon AFSCME Council 75

Oregon Center for Christian Voices

Oregon Center for Public Policy

Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness

Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

Oregon Food Bank

Oregon Housing Authorities

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives

Proud Ground

Raphael House

REACH CDC

St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.

ShelterCare

Sisters Habitat for Humanity

Sponsors, Inc.

SquareOne Villages

Street Roots

Transition Projects

Urban League of Portland

Washington County

Welcome Home Coalition

Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services