



Member Organizations

211 Info
AFSCME Local #3135
Bienestar
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
City of Eugene
City of Gresham
City of Portland
City of Tigard
Clackamas County
Clackamas Housing Action Network
Coalition for a Livable Future
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Community Action Team, Inc.
Community Alliance of Tenants
Community Housing Fund
Community Partners for Affordable Housing
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Enterprise Community Partners
Fair Housing Council of Oregon
Farmworker Housing Development Corp.
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Hacienda CDC
Homeless Families Coalition
Housing Advocacy Group of Washington Co.
Housing Development Center
Human Solutions
Impact Northwest
JOIN
Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lincoln County
Metro
NAYA Family Center
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.
Neighborhood Partnerships
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Pilot Project
Oregon Action
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Opportunity Network
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc.
Proud Ground
Raphael House
REACH CDC
Rose CDC
St. Vincent DePaul of Lane County
Shelter Care
Sisters Of The Road
Street Roots
Transition Projects, Inc.
Washington County
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services

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HB 3112

House Human Services and Housing Committee

April 5, 2013

Dear Chair Tomei, Vice Chair Gomberg, Vice Chair Olson, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Janet Byrd. I am the Executive Director of Neighborhood Partnerships, and am writing to you today in my role as convener of the Housing Alliance. The Housing Alliance is a coalition of organizations serving all parts of Oregon. We are concerned about the availability of safe, decent and affordable housing for all Oregon residents.

As a coalition, our advocacy is focused on behalf of Oregonians who have limited incomes, and meeting the housing needs in our communities. Today, too many individuals and families are forced to chose between paying the rent and putting food on the table.

I am here today in support of HB 3112, which would provide that property owned by political subdivisions, such as cities, that is used for affordable housing or is leased or rented to persons with lower incomes is exempt from property taxes.

Property tax exemptions and abatements are an essential tool in the toolbox for ensuring that our communities have adequate affordable housing across the continuum of needs. For affordable rental housing, they reduce the operating costs, thereby allowing rents to be set at a lower amount. For individuals on fixed incomes, any reduction in rent will help ensure residents are stable and able to afford their rent plus utilities or other expenses to meet their basic needs.

The City of Portland is requesting this extension, and we support their efforts. The City of Portland and Multnomah County have undergone an extensive process to evaluate the benefits and impacts of all tax exemption programs, and have set high standards. This bill ties the definition of affordability to statute, which offers additional assurance that the exemption is targeted towards providing housing affordable for those who need it most.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 3112, and we urge your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your work on behalf of Oregon communities.

Janet Byrd,
On Behalf of the Housing Alliance