



# Testimony in Support of HB 3112 A

## Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

May 29, 2013

### 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

Dear Chair Burdick, Vice Chair George, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you in support of HB 3112 A, related to exemptions from property taxes for affordable housing.

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 choose between paying the rent and putting food on the table.

The Housing Alliance supports HB 3112 A, which clarifies that property owned by political subdivisions, such as cities, that is used or intended to be 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 clarification, 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 exemptions, 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.

We urge your support of HB 3112 A.

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

Alison McIntosh  
On Behalf of the Housing Alliance

### Contact us:

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