

State Representative Shemia Fagan
February 22, 2013
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING
Public Testimony Regarding House Bill 2349 and Amendment 2349-1

Chair Tomei and members of the committee, for the record, I am Shemia Fagan, State Representative for House District 51.

I'm here in support of the -1 amendment to House Bill 2349. Without the amendment the tax exemption includes a requirement that "The proposed construction will be located in a distressed area", a restrictive requirement that, in the City of Portland, for example, limits the use of this exemption to just a few small areas and requires the concentration of affordable housing to only a few neighborhoods in the city. I believe, and after conversations know that the City of Portland and Multnomah County also believe, that we need to encourage developers to create affordable housing options in every neighborhood, instead of concentrating it in only a few neighborhoods. This is a friendly amendment that has support from the stakeholders. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.