



Member Organizations

211 Info
AFSCME Local #3135
Alliance for Family & Housing Success
Bienestar
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
City of Corvallis
City of Eugene
City of Gresham
City of Portland
City of Tigard
Clackamas County
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
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

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Testimony to Senate General Government and Consumer Protection February 17, 2014 Please Support HB 4038A Opportunity to Purchase Compromise Bill For Manufactured Home Park Residents

Senate General Government, Small Business, and
Consumer Protection Committee
900 Court Street
Salem Oregon

Senator Shields, Senator George, and Members

I am Janet Byrd, Executive Director of Neighborhood Partnerships and the convener of the Housing Alliance. We urge your support of HB 4038A. The Housing Alliance is a coalition of organizations concerned about maintaining access to safe decent and affordable housing in communities across Oregon. We're asking the Legislature to take action in 2014 to ensure housing opportunity, by requiring that residents of manufactured home parks be given notice of potential sales of the parks in which they live.

Manufactured home parks are one of the largest sources of privately owned affordable housing in Oregon, providing about 65,500 homes in Oregon. These communities are home to seniors and people with disabilities living on fixed incomes, and families who are just starting out. They provide a stable and affordable place to call home for our neighbors.

Legislation was proposed in 2013 (HB 3007) and supported by the Housing Alliance that did not advance. A workgroup with representatives from park owners, resident advocates, and the Housing Alliance led by Representatives Nathanson and Whisnant met over the summer and fall. The resulting compromise proposal, captured in HB 4038A, represents significant and meaningful concessions by both park owners and residents. It includes positive change to current law for both sides.

Our goal is to allow residents to compete to buy their parks from willing landlord/owner sellers, but with a process which is similar to the practices of the private market. HB 4038 A sets out clear and reasonable timelines, provides tenants with notice and the opportunity to make an offer. Owners may solicit other offers as well, and then accept the best offer.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to live in a safe, stable place they can call home. Oregon can do more to ensure that residents of manufactured home parks remain stably housed even when a park owner decides to sell.

Thank you for your action to secure housing opportunity. We urge your support of HB 4038A.

Janet Byrd
Executive Director