



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON
PORTLAND HOUSING BUREAU

Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Traci Manning, Director
421 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 500
Portland OR 97204
(503) 823-2375
Fax (503) 823-2387
www.portlandoregon.gov/PHB

Senator Chip Shields, Chair
Senate General Government and Consumer Protection Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 14, 2014

Dear Chair Shields and Members of the Committee,

I ask for your support on HB 4038A and preserving affordable housing opportunities in Oregon's manufactured home parks through allowing residents the opportunity to purchase their own parks. Portland's experience tells us that one of the most effective ways to meet the growing need for affordable housing is through preservation. Preservation, particularly through resident purchase of manufactured home parks, leverages existing resources and allows low-income communities to remain intact. HB 4038A provides a path to ensuring that the homes in these parks can remain affordable for Oregon's lowest-income households.

HB 4038A empowers residents to maintain their homes' affordability by providing them the opportunity to purchase their own parks before park owners sell to a private third party. In addition to preserving affordability, HB 4038A would benefit residents in a number of ways, especially in maintaining strong community. For example, in cases where parks close altogether, it is difficult and sometimes impossible to for residents to move their homes. This dilemma uproots residents from their homes, destabilizing families and communities. Allowing residents to purchase parks is a proven community investment in creating stable and safe housing.

Of the over 1,000 manufactured home parks statewide, 70 are located in Portland with over 3,300 spaces for homes. Like the vast majority of parks in Oregon, they provide safe, affordable housing for low-income Portlanders that would be difficult and costly to reproduce with new construction. HB 4038A is a positive step in preserving Oregon's affordable housing, and for these reasons I ask for your support.

Respectfully,



Javier Mena
Deputy Director, Portland Housing Bureau