



## **Klamath Housing Authority**

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Taisheka Broom, Committee Assistant  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

I am writing this letter in support of HB 2629. Klamath Housing Authority is currently trying to purchase an RD property in Merrill, Oregon that is experiencing exactly what this bill is trying to prevent. The mortgage on this property pays off in July of this year. As of today's date the tenants at this property have not been notified that they are in danger of losing the subsidy that keeps their rent affordable.

Most housing authorities' waiting lists are long for both Public Housing and the Section 8 HCV program, and Klamath Housing Authority's is no exception. If the tenants had been notified at the one year mark, there was a possibility that they would have been able to rise to the top of one of those waiting lists, now there is no hope that they will.

I fully support HB 2629's attempt to soften the impact of all of these RD properties maturing mortgages on our most vulnerable citizens. Over 80% of the units in Merrill are occupied by single parents with children or seniors and disabled people on fixed incomes. One of the tenants is developmentally delayed, and has lived there for 11 years. If she had to move at this point in her life, she very well could end up in an institution, as clients like this do not adjust well to traumatic upheavals in their life. I am very concerned for all of these tenants. Advance notice would have given them options they no longer have access to.

Knowing this particular situation is only one of many, many projects that are nearing the end of their mortgages prompts me to write this letter in support of, and urge you to pass HB2629.

Thank you,

Diana Otero  
Executive Director