



March 10, 2015

Robyn Johnson, Administrator
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
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RE: HB 3082, House Committee on Human Services and Housing

To Whom it May Concern:

Living Cully: A Cully Ecodistrict is a collaborative effort of Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East, Hacienda Community Development Corporation, the Native American Youth and Family Center and Verde to reinterpret sustainability as an anti-poverty strategy. This powerful collective represents over 100 years of combined know-how in community economic development, affordable housing, and green infrastructure. Our Living Cully Signature Projects are delivering needed assets into Cully and empowering community members to take greater control over these assets as well as generating income through jobs, job training and business contracting opportunities.

Living Cully partners work together to engage and empower communities, and to reduce the risks of displacement of low income households from neighborhoods that are experiencing rapid growth and revitalization. In Portland, low income communities of color are disproportionately impacted by housing instability, displacement, higher rates of poverty and lower rates of homeownership than their white neighbors.

Living Cully partners promote the efforts of nonprofit housing organizations to assist rental housing residents to become homeowners, in their neighborhoods.

By allowing the income of a nonprofit affordable housing resident to grow slightly while they save to buy a home, or move to market rental housing, hardworking families can transition stably instead of being pushed backwards just as they are pulling themselves up and out of poverty.

HB 3082 will add an anti-displacement tool by creating a local option that will allow the income of a low income family to grow modestly while they are working towards buying a home or moving to afford market rate housing. We appreciate the ability to share information with the House Committee on Human Services and Housing for the March 11, 2015 hearing.

Warm Regards,

Tony DeFalco
Living Cully Coordinator

