



Community And Shelter Assistance Corp.

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April 20, 2015

To: Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Human Services and Housing Committee

From: Peter Hainley, Executive Director of CASA of Oregon

Re: Support of HB 2198

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the amendment to HB 2198 to establish the Affordable Family Housing Development Program to support new affordable housing for low-income families in our communities.

CASA has been working throughout the state for 27 years to ensure safe, decent and affordable housing is available to all Oregonians, particularly in more rural areas. Many smaller communities have asked us to assist with projects, but the lack of funding has prevented these communities from creating more housing. This \$100 million will be a game-changer for rural areas.

In rural parts of the state, it is extremely difficult to construct smaller, new housing projects. The need to build a project scaled to the community means they are often not well-suited to the complexities of federally-supported programs. A flexible funding source would allow us to more nimbly develop solutions for rural and special needs populations.

For example, CASA has been helping form resident-owned manufactured housing communities for eight years. We believe that a flexible funding source could be used to create a new manufactured housing community that will reduce the costs needed to house low-income Oregonians. A new, resident-owned manufactured housing community is less costly to build than an apartment project and the residents self management of the community assure a democratically-controlled entity. A win-win for all!

I urge the committee to support HB 2198 as amended.



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY