



April 20, 2015

Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

Proud Ground supports the -1 amendment to HB 2198 that addresses the parameters for the critical investment necessary for housing in Oregon. We support the messages below as a member of the Oregon Housing Alliance and specific encourage filling a critical gap statewide for our most vulnerable families.

These investments can open opportunities to spread limited resources to the broader housing continuum that included the final stabilizing designation of affordable homeownership. When kids grow up in a home owned by their families, the cycle of poverty can be broken once and for all.

Oregon can't succeed without homes

- There is one affordable home for every four households managing extremely low incomes – we need 50,000 affordable homes across Oregon.
- 20,000 children experienced homelessness in 2013-14, putting success at school at risk.
- Only one in six (5,000) of the 30,000 families receiving temporary assistance have access to affordable housing, making it harder for them to make progress towards goals.
- Housing costs are rising 3% to 8% year over year, forcing choices between basics like food, utilities, health care or medicine, and child care.

What will \$100 million do? Create homes affordable to families, strengthen Oregon's communities, and build a better future across Oregon!

- Let Oregon communities innovate: State investment will leverage local resources and local ingenuity – land, local government resources, private capital, and local community donations – and avoid federal restrictions.
- Meet rural, urban, and suburban community needs for housing with flexible funds.
- Double our impact. Oregon Housing and Community Services estimates 3,000 to 4,000 new units could be built to affordably house 12,000 to 16,000 people, while current resources only reach about 1,300 households a year.

The 2015 Legislature has a historic choice. Oregon's prosperity and Oregon's future are at stake.

Sincerely,
Diane Linn, Executive Director, Proud Ground

Dreams Start Here.