



Community And Shelter Assistance Corporation

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May 7, 2015

Capital Construction Sub-Committee of Ways and Means

Oregon Housing and Community Services Bond Package

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Read, Members of the Committee:

My name is Lisa Rogers and I work for Community and Shelter Assistance Corporation (CASA of Oregon). Our office is located in Sherwood and we are a statewide organization whose mission reads: "Deeply rooted in service to farmworkers, CASA of Oregon improves the lives of Oregonians in underserved communities by building affordable housing, neighborhood facilities, and programs that increase families' financial well-being". I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposal to build Oregon's future by supporting a historic investment of \$100 million for affordable homes for families with low incomes.

We know that our communities can't succeed without homes. Yet, there is only one affordable home for every four households managing extremely low incomes; 20,000 children experienced homelessness in 2013-14; and housing costs are rising 3% to 8% year over year, forcing choices between basics like food, utilities, health care or medicine, and child care. We can help solve this problem by building homes affordable to families with low incomes. In the process, we can strengthen the State's communities, and boost local economies. The proposed \$100 million housing development bond package will allow us, as a housing developer, to be innovative, flexible and sensitive to our community needs. Statewide, the funds will build an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 new homes, which could affordably house 12,000 to 16,000 people. We look forward to seeing the impact we could have here in Washington County and elsewhere.

My organization, and my community, like dozens of communities throughout the state, is ready to unleash the ingenuity, innovation and hard work that has defined Oregon for centuries. We can choose to invest in people and create a better future for the next generation. We urge your careful consideration of, and support for, this proposed historic investment in homes for Oregon.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Rogers", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa Rogers

Deputy Director