



Klamath Housing Authority

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May 14, 2015

Capital Construction Sub-Committee of Ways and Means

Lottery-Backed Bonds for Preservation

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

I am Diana Otero the Executive Director of Klamath Housing Authority, which covers both Klamath and Lake counties. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the \$20 Million lottery-backed Bonding proposal to preserve currently affordable homes.

We know that our communities can't succeed without homes. However, we are at risk of decreasing the number of homes affordable to people with low incomes. Across the state thousands of people with extremely low incomes (less than \$10,000 a year) live in homes with federal rent subsidies and in manufactured home parks which are at risk of conversion to market rate.

The proposed \$20 Million will allow the public-private partnership of the Oregon Housing Preservation Project (OHPP) to continue on its success helping families, seniors, and people with disabilities who are living on very low incomes stay in their homes and in their communities.

Klamath County currently has a very rural apartment complex in the heart of our farmland that is dangerously close to having its mortgage paid off and becoming market rate. The average rent of the families living there is less than \$100, with subsidy. These families have a very real risk of becoming homeless if this property is not preserved. The \$20 Million lottery-backed Bonding proposal would be a tremendous asset in preserving this property and many others across Oregon that will soon be in similar situations.

We cannot afford to lose this precious resource and risk displacement of our neighbors. This

proven public-private partnership can save these homes and leverage private and federal resources with the investment of Lottery Backed Bonds.

We urge your careful consideration of, and support for continuing this investment and ensuring our most vulnerable community members continue to have a safe, stable, affordable place to call home.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diana Otero", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Diana Otero
Executive Director