

May 19, 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 Jeremy Toevs, Executive Director of Open Door Counseling Center in Washington County. Our organization helps to educate and assist underserved households to obtain and retain affordable permanent housing. I am writing to express my 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.

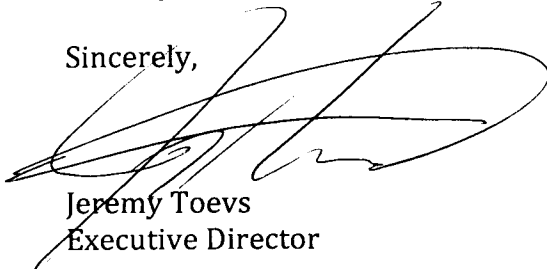
Washington County's Consolidated Plan notes that while housing needs will remain great, additional housing services for low-income homeownership is needed. A significant percentage of low-income households face severe housing cost burdens. Those at the lowest income levels face the most significant obstacles in obtaining affordable housing without multiple subsidies.

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,



Jeremy Toevs
Executive Director