

5/28/2015

Capital Construction Sub-Committee of Ways and Means

Lottery-Backed Bonds for Preservation

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

My name is Erik Pattison, I work at Hacienda CDC and live in Portland. The Cully neighborhood is a unique place with many incomes and different ethnic groups. 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. 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 that are at risk of conversion to market rate rents.

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. This is a very affordable way to maintain affordable housing units and should be a priority.

The Cully neighborhood is quickly losing land and old homes to newer more expensive homes. Preservation of existing units ensures that residents that live here now in older units will not be added to the waiting list for new affordable units. 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,

Erik Pattison