



January 29, 2016

Dear Chair Gelser and members of the Human Services and Early Childhood Committee:

I write on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network in support of SB 1582, which directs Housing and Community Services Department to develop and implement the LIFT (Local Innovation and Fast Track) Housing Program to expand state's supply of affordable housing for low income individuals or families.

We are very excited to see this first step toward fulfilling the Governor's goal of \$100 million to house low-income families. Over 20,000 Oregon schoolchildren are experiencing homelessness; this investment is absolutely crucial and a historic leap forward in the right direction for housing opportunity.

As nonprofit housing developers, our members work hard to leverage public and private dollars to make projects pencil and ensure we have durable, well-built homes delivered as efficiently as possible. But we simply don't enough resources to keep up with the need. After years of disinvestment at the federal level, we need a whole range of state and local investments to build, rehab and preserve affordable housing of all types – including manufactured homes, rental housing and single-family homes.

Oregon Housing and Community Services staff, along with many partners across multiple agencies and sectors, are working hard to lay the groundwork for a successful roll-out of this vital new funding, as quickly and effectively as possible. We will continue to be closely engaged to make the most of this new funding to build safe, affordable homes for low-income families, so that Oregon's most vulnerable children can find success in school and life.

Thank you very much for your consideration and your leadership for Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Adkins', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Ruth Adkins
Policy Director

Oregon ON member organizations:

Statewide

CASA of Oregon
Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare
Catholic Charities
Enterprise Community Partners
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Housing Development Center
NOAH (Network for Oregon
Affordable Housing)
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Rural Community Assistance
Corporation

Central & Eastern Oregon

Columbia Cascade Housing
Community Connection of NE Oregon
Housing Works
NeighborImpact
UGMW Nonprofit Development
Corporation

Coastal

Northwest Coastal Housing
Community Action Team, Inc.

Southern Oregon

ACCESS
Housing Authority of Jackson County
NeighborWorks Umpqua
United Community Action Network

Willamette Valley

Community Home Builders
Cornerstone Community Housing
Farmworker Housing Development
Corporation
Housing and Community Services of
Lane County (HACSA)
Mainstream Housing, Inc.
NEDCO
Oregon Housing and Associated
Services
Polk CDC
St Vincent de Paul of Lane County
Willamette Neighborhood Housing
Services

Portland Metro

Bienestar

BRIDGE Housing
Central City Concern
Community Housing Fund
CPAH
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro
East
Hacienda CDC
Home Forward
Housing Authority of Clackamas
County
Housing Authority of Washington
County
Human Solutions, Inc.
Innovative Housing, Inc.
NAYA Family Center
PCRI
Portland Housing Center
Proud Ground
REACH Community Development
ROSE Community Development
Sabin CDC

...Plus over 100 businesses, government agencies, community organizations and individuals across Oregon who support our mission.