

**Testimony on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network
Dan Valliere, CEO , REACH Community Development
February 1, 2016**

Good afternoon. My name is Dan Valliere, CEO of REACH Community Development a non-profit developer and manager of 2,000 affordable rental apartments in Oregon and SW Washington. REACH is a member of the Oregon Opportunity Network and Housing Alliance. I am testifying today on behalf of the Oregon Opportunity Network in full support of SB 1582, which directs the 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.

I participated on the OHCS policy subcommittee that provided OHCS staff with input and guidance on design for the LIFT program. The next step is to pass SB 1582 to provide the necessary authorization to launch the program. The legislation authorizes creating of affordable housing for purchase or rental, affordable to families at or below 60% of area median income.

As nonprofit housing developers, our members work hard to leverage public and private dollars to create new housing that will remain affordable for decades. We simply don't enough resources to keep up with the need and the LIFT program is an important new tool. I also note that LIFT may assist in leveraging additional federal funding such as 4% tax credit financing that could be secured when matched with new state financing like LIFT.

We stand ready to support OHCS to successfully roll-out of out this vital new funding, as quickly and effectively as possible. Thank you for pushing this forward.

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