



**HOUSING  
ALLIANCE**

[www.OregonHousingAlliance.org](http://www.OregonHousingAlliance.org)

## **Increasing utilization of the EITC helps families afford basic needs**

**House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
February 3, 2016  
House Bill 4144 Relating to Earned Income Tax Credits**

**Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the Committee,**

**The Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than seventy organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the base on which all of our success is built—individual success as students, parents, workers, and community members as well as the success of our communities. We represent a diverse set of voices from residents to local jurisdictions to non-profit housing developers and organizations working to meet basic needs in every corner of our state.**

**We ask your support for efforts to increase utilization of the earned income tax credit (EITC) to help families achieve and maintain housing stability.**

**The EITC is one of the most effective programs in the nation to help working families achieve financial security, including the ability to pay for housing—the largest expense for families. However, more than one out of four eligible families in Oregon is missing out on this critical tax credit. In light of rapid rises in housing costs, this credit is more important than ever. Sudden increases in rent and no-cause evictions are devastating families' budgets throughout the state, and many families face housing instability and homelessness as a result of these and other unexpected expenses, such as medical emergencies. The EITC can help these families weather a rainy day and stabilize their housing situations.**

**A report by the Department of Revenue on under-utilization of the EITC—and targeted efforts to promote its use—will help more families receive this credit that they have earned with their hard work. On behalf of the Housing Alliance, I urge your prompt consideration and support of this proposal, which promises to benefit working families throughout our state. Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and your service to the people of Oregon.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Lee', written over a faint circular stamp.

**Jenny Lee**

**On Behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance**



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## Housing Alliance Members

1000 Friends of Oregon

211info

A Home for Everyone Multnomah County

Alliance of Family & Housing Success

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

Bienestar

Bradley Angle

CASA of Oregon

Central City Concern

City of Eugene.

City of Portland

Clackamas County

Coalition of Communities of Color

Coalition of Community Health Clinics

Common Ground

Community Action Partnership of Oregon

Community Alliance of Tenants

Community Energy Project

Community Housing Fund

Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Cornerstone Community Housing

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

Enterprise Community Partners

Fair Housing Council of Oregon

Farmworker Housing Development

Corporation

Habitat for Humanity of Oregon

Hacienda CDC

Coalition of Housing Advocates

Housing Development Center

Housing Works

Human Solutions

Impact Northwest

Immigrant & Refugee Community

Organization

JOIN

Lane County Legal Aid and Advocacy Center

League of Women Voters of Oregon

Lincoln County

Metro

Momentum Alliance

NAYA Family Center

Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.

Neighborhood Partnerships

NeighborImpact

NeighborWorks Umpqua

Network for Oregon Affordable Housing

Northwest Housing Alternatives

Northwest Pilot Project

Open Door Counseling Center

Oregon AFSCME Local 3135

Oregon Center for Public Policy

Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness

Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities

Oregon Food Bank

Oregon Housing Authorities

Oregon Law Center

Oregon Opportunity Network

Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon

Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives,  
Inc.

Proud Ground

Raphael House

REACH CDC

St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.

ShelterCare

Sisters of the Road

Sponsors, Inc.

Street Roots

Transition Projects

Urban League of Portland

Washington County

Welcome Home Coalition

Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services