



**HOUSING
ALLIANCE**

www.OregonHousingAlliance.org

Increase the EITC to support housing opportunity

House Committee on Revenue

February 4, 2016

House Bill 4120 Relating to Earned Income Credits

Chair Barnhart 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 for your support of an increase in the state earned income tax credit (EITC).

The EITC is one of the most effective programs to help working families achieve financial security, including stable housing—the largest expense for families. In light of rapid rises in housing costs, an increase in this credit is urgently needed. Rising rents and a spate of no-cause evictions are devastating families' budgets throughout the state. 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.

Any increase in the EITC helps bring families closer to making ends meet and achieving housing opportunity. 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 in a cursive style.

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