



Community And Shelter Assistance Corporation

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**House Committee on Rural Communities, Land Use and Water
February 7, 2016
Hearing on HB 4079**

Testimony from Peter Hainley, Executive Director
Community and Shelter Assistance Corp. (CASA of Oregon)

Chair Clem and members of the Rural Communities, Land Use and Water Committee:

For 28 years, CASA of Oregon has worked in rural communities to ensure that farmworkers and other low income populations have access to safe, decent and affordable housing. Our efforts have helped to ensure 7,500 farmworkers and their families now have safe, decent and affordable housing.

HB 4079 is an opportunity for a creative pilot that would help smaller communities address their lack of affordable housing. While some may say that this is an assault on the state's strong land use system, properly implemented it could be the answer to the need for affordable housing throughout the state.

There are a number of cities that will likely apply to pilot this. With good rules in place to ensure long term affordability, this could be model legislation. Since the pilot targets areas where there is existing infrastructure, it is likely that it will be easier to develop housing that is affordable to low income families.

We would want to thank Rep Stark for presenting a creative solution to deal with the affordable housing crises that is being felt all over Oregon, not just in the metro areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and CASA encourages the committee to support this bill.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Hainley".

Peter Hainley
Executive Director