



February 5, 2016

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

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on HB 4079 on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network (Oregon ON). We are a statewide association of affordable housing and community development nonprofits, housing authorities, and community action agencies that provide housing and economic opportunity for working families, people with disabilities, seniors and others struggling to meet their needs in communities throughout Oregon.

As members of the Housing Alliance, Oregon ON along with many partners is working hard for a comprehensive and urgent housing agenda this session. As you know, Oregon is facing a crisis of housing access and affordability that is impacting people in communities of all sizes, both rural and urban.

With over 20,000 schoolchildren experiencing homelessness in our state, the stakes have never been higher. We need to move on multiple fronts with great urgency and creativity to keep families stably housed. Only with a stable home comes the best opportunity for health, success in school and work, and prosperity.

In response to this crisis, HB 4079 provides a thoughtful and creative pilot-project approach that we believe is worth exploring.

We appreciate that this bill recognizes the special values of some lands, focuses on non-metro area cities where the adjacency of services and infrastructure is more proximate, calls out the need for the housing to be located near infrastructure, and has important provisions calling both for adjustment to market variance and for long-term affordability.

As this concept moves forward, we would welcome the opportunity to be engaged around additional key details to be determined through rule-making, such as levels of affordability, and what ratio of affordable housing to other uses might be required or expected.

In the meantime, we are excited to see creative ideas like this one, to increase access to affordable housing opportunities in new and innovative ways.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to weigh in, and for your service to Oregon.

Sincerely,



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.

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

#### **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