



February 15, 2016

Dear Chair Williamson and members of the House Rules Committee:

I write on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network (Oregon ON), the statewide association of affordable housing and community development nonprofits, in support of HB 4143.

Working to provide housing and services in communities across Oregon, our members see people in crisis everyday—people living in cars and on the street, people one paycheck from homelessness, people working full-time but still struggling to pay the rent. This has been a growing problem across Oregon, but in the past couple of years we've hit the perfect storm. With populations growing and the market not building new units during the Recession, vacancies are at all-time lows and rent increases are at all-time highs.

We know that a stable, safe place to call home is the key to success. We know the policy and resource strategies that can put us back on track to meeting the housing needs of the most vulnerable Oregonians. Enacting reasonable tenant protections is an important part of the solution – along with lifting the statewide ban on Inclusionary Housing (SB 1533).

Many Oregon ON members, as operators of affordable housing, are landlords; and our housing authority members work closely with private landlords who rent to folks with Section 8 vouchers. So we understand first-hand the significant challenges of being a landlord, and the need for a balanced approach that protects the rights of all parties. We strongly believe that tenants need greater protections from the current market, and that the seriousness of the crisis in communities across Oregon warrants immediate action in this short session.

We urge you to support the reasonable tenant protections included in HB 4143. As amended, it is far less than we had initially hoped for, but still a very important step in the right direction.

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.

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

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