

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM, INC.

"BUILDING BRIDGES TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY"



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St. Helens, Oregon 97051
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
125 N. 17th St.
St. Helens, Oregon 97051
(503) 397-3511 Ext. 279
Housing Development
Community Facilities

HOUSING CENTER
(503) 325-8098
(800) 325-8098
Housing Information & Referral
Homeowner & Tenant Trainings
Home Ownership Assistance

SELF-HELP HOUSING
Acquisition Rehabilitation Sweat Equity
(503) 366-6550
(503) 366-6544

HOUSING REHABILITATION
Rehabilitation
Weatherization
Astoria
(503) 325-8098
(800) 325-8098
Columbia
(503) 366-6552

EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAM
125 N. 17th St.
St. Helens, Oregon 97051
(503) 336-6546
(800) 404-3511

CHILD & FAMILY
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
PO Box 10, 108 W. B. St.
Rainier, Oregon 97048
(503) 556-3736
Head Start
Healthy Start

ENERGY SERVICES PROGRAM
125 N. 17th St.
St. Helens, Oregon 97051
(503) 397-4951
(866) 722-4951
Energy Utility Assistance
Consumer Education
Tillamook
(503) 842-3267
(866) 722-4951
Astoria
(866) 722-4951

SENIOR, RESPITE & VETERANS
SERVICE PROGRAMS
125 N. 17th St.
St. Helens, Oregon 97051
(503) 366-6543
Respite Care, OPI
Senior Support & Nutrition Programs

Veterans Service Program
125 N. 17th St.
St. Helens, Oregon 97051
(503) 366-6580

DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM
125 N. 17th St.
St. Helens, Oregon 97051
(503) 366-6563

February 11, 2016

Capital Construction Sub-Committee of Ways and Means

Re: HB 5203: Dedicate Lottery-Backed Bonds for Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Read, Members of the Committee:

I am the Executive Director of Community Action Team (CAT), the anti-poverty nonprofit that serves Clatsop, Tillamook and Columbia counties. Since 1984, we have been working to preserve public and private housing, including the homes of low-income homeowners, owners of manufactured homes (in parks or on private land) and affordable rental housing. This current housing crisis is the worst we have ever experienced.

CAT is also the emergency housing provider in these counties. This crisis has made housing the homeless, very much more difficult. Our unfulfilled priority is families with kids. Part of this results from increasing need. But today, our biggest problem is the absence of available units, at any price. Our homeless families often find they have been placed on a list with dozens of other families competing for the same home. For many, this happens, again and again. Without a home, it is impossible for these families to turn their lives around.

We must find a way to preserve our existing housing stock, in particular those homes that are affordable to low and very low-income families. These homes are disappearing faster than public and private efforts can replace them. In hot markets like this one, low-income apartment buildings with rental assistance are more valuable taken out of their federal programs. The land under manufactured home parks becomes more valuable for new development, leaving very poor "homeowners" with an old singlewide, which no other park will accept.

Since 2006, the Preservation program created with Lottery Backed Bonds has preserved nearly 9,000 of these units at a cost to the state of just under \$14,000 each. This is just 5% of the cost of new affordable units. This is the cheapest source of affordable housing we have.

Please support HB 5203. It is our most cost efficient tool to build and maintain the pool of affordable units in our communities. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely

Serving Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook Counties for over Forty-Nine Years