



Klamath Housing Authority

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February 10, 2016

Capital Construction Sub-Committee of Ways and Means

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

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

I am Diana Otero, Executive Director of Klamath Housing Authority in Klamath Falls, OR. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the use of Lottery Backed Bonds to preserve currently affordable homes across Oregon.

We know that our communities can't succeed without homes. However, we are at risk of decreasing the number of homes affordable to people with low incomes. Across the state thousands of people with extremely low incomes (less than \$10,000 a year) live in homes with federal rent subsidies and in manufactured home parks which are at risk of conversion to market rate.

Allocation of Lottery Backed Bonds will allow the ongoing work of many partners in communities across the state and the public-private partnership of the Oregon Housing Preservation Project (OHPP) to continue our track record of success helping families, seniors, and people with disabilities who are living on very low incomes stay in their homes and in their communities.

Klamath Falls came very close to losing a small subsidized apartment complex with 12 units of rental assistance because of lack of funding to purchase it before the mortgage paid off. It is my understanding that there are more projects coming up that will be in the same position. Losing subsidized units is a tragedy that must be avoided. Klamath Falls is still struggling to recover from the economic downturn, and affordable housing is still a high priority here.

We cannot afford to lose this precious resource and risk displacement of our neighbors. This proven public-private partnership can save these homes and leverage private and federal resources with the investment of Lottery Backed Bonds.

We urge your careful consideration of, and support for continuing this investment and ensuring our most vulnerable community members continue to have a safe, stable, affordable place to call home.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Diana Otero', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Diana Otero

Klamath Housing Authority