

February 11, 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:

My name is Amanda Saul, and I'm a Senior Program Director with Enterprise Community Partners in Portland, Oregon. Enterprise is a national intermediary delivering capital, developing programs and advocating for policies needed to create and preserve homes that people can afford. Since 1982, we have created nearly 340,000 homes and invested \$18.6 billion across the county. 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.

We are in the midst of an affordability crisis in Oregon: [over 160,000 families pay more than half of their incomes toward rent](#), which leaves very little for the other necessities of life. Preserving already existing affordable housing is one of the surest ways to prevent this problem—already at epidemic proportions—from getting worse.

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,
Amanda Saul

Amanda Saul
Senior Program Director
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