

Senate Finance and Revenue Committee
SB 1533A - 5
February 23, 2016

RE: SB 1533A -5

Chair Hass and members of the Committee;

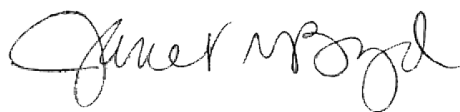
Neighborhood Partnerships enthusiastically supports SB 1533A as amended by the -A5 amendments. Neighborhood Partnerships is a statewide organization with a twenty-six year history of working to increase housing opportunity in Oregon. We have been actively engaged in the housing policy and funding conversations this session, and are very familiar with the elements under consideration in SB 1533A -5.

Senate Bill 1533A -5 is a significant step forward in providing cities and counties with the resources and policy options they need to affect housing affordability. The bill has the enthusiastic support of some of the cities hit hardest by the current housing affordability crisis, and I expect we will see rapid implementation in those jurisdictions and others. The bill also has the support of industry representatives, who feel confident that the framework established by the bill will work across the state.

As you and all members of the Legislature have heard resoundingly this session, Oregon cannot move forward to meet its goals in any sphere without a strong housing market that provides affordable housing opportunity in areas near jobs, transit, and education. Bold action is needed in response, and SB 1533A -5 is part of that action. It will create housing opportunity through enabling local jurisdictions to require affordable housing as part of each multifamily development over twenty homes, and by enabling local jurisdictions to capture some of the energy of the development boom to raise the resources needed to help ensure housing affordability and needed infrastructure for housing.

Thank you for your prompt consideration. We urge your support of this important step forward.

Sincerely,



Janet Byrd
Executive Director, Neighborhood Partnerships