



Community And Shelter Assistance Corporation

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**House Committee on Human Services and Housing
March 9, 2017
Hearing on HB 2570**

Testimony from Peter Hainley, Executive Director
Community and Shelter Assistance Corp. (CASA of Oregon)

Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the Human Services and Housing Committee:

CASA of Oregon has been providing housing opportunities for farmworkers, rural families and others for nearly 30 years. While most of our production has been multi-family and on farm units, we have developed 13 single family homes and provided down payment and housing counseling assistance to many families. More recently, we have helped 580 homeowners living in manufactured housing communities to convert their communities to resident-ownership. We also work with 60+ nonprofits and housing authorities to offer Individual Development Accounts (IDA). These IDAs have provided a modest amount to assist in the closing costs for first time home buyers. Over the last 15 years we have helped 860 families buy a home with their IDA. The initiative as a whole has helped more than 1600.

And while those numbers seem impressive, there is a huge need for getting more folks into homeownership. It's imperative to provide options for folks to get out of subsidized housing so we can free up those rental units for those most in need. Without the continuum of housing which includes homeless prevention, shelters, rapid re-housing options, affordable rental housing, coops, community land trusts and single family home ownership, we will never be able to adequately address one of humanity's basic necessities: a roof over one's head.

HB 2570 provides the mechanism for creating more affordable housing by allowing nonprofits to establish revolving loan funds. CASA of Oregon has a loan fund that has been certified by the US Treasury as a Certified Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Any funds we are able to raise for our loan fund, we can then apply to the US Treasury for match. HB 2570 provides an opportunity for the CDFIs in Oregon to potentially double the state's investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and we encourage the committee to support this bill.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter Hainley".

Peter Hainley
Executive Director