



Community And Shelter Assistance Corporation

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**Ways & Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
March 20, 2017
Hearing on HB 5012**

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

Co-Chairs Johnson and Gomberg and members of the Committee:

For nearly 30 years, CASA of Oregon has been working with local organizations throughout rural parts of the state to provide housing, community facilities and asset building opportunities. We operate a \$9 million, US Treasury-certified Community Development Financial Institution which supports our community development work.

Nearly everything we do is in collaboration with OHCS. We have built or are developing more than 1800 units in 45 projects. We have helped farmers rehabilitate 1300 units of on-farm housing. We have completed seven community facilities. Nearly 6000 people have opened accounts through our Individual Development account.

The OHCS 2017-2019 budget proposes a number of programs that will ensure Oregonians have safe, decent and affordable housing. One of the keys to ensuring this is the preservation of existing housing. The department provides funds for existing federally subsidized apartments throughout the state. This preservation funding also helps residents living in manufactured homes communities have access to resources to help them purchase and own their communities as resident-owned cooperatives.

There are approximately 1200 manufactured home communities in Oregon. Over half of the people living in these communities are low income, many living in poverty. It is estimated that nearly half of the residents in these communities are seniors.

Since 2008, we have completed the conversion of nine manufactured housing communities to resident ownership and are currently working on another three. Access to resources provided by lottery-backed bonds and document recording fees are crucial to this work. We have leveraged these funds with our own loan funds and other private lenders. The 2017-2019 OHCS budget proposed by the governor will ensure we can continue to help these residents take control of their lives.

We urge your support of HB 5012 and OHCS's continued investment in our great state. Thank you for your service to Oregon!

Kind Regards,

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

Peter Hainley
Executive Director