



Columbia Cascade Housing Corp.

March 21, 2017

Chair Alissa Keny-Guyer
House Human Services and Housing Committee

By email to: hhs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

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

My name is David Peters, the Housing Center Manager for Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation (CCHC) in The Dalles. CCHC has been operating in the Gorge since 1991, serving Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties in Oregon. Although the Mid-Columbia Housing Resource Center provides information and education to all, the primary focus of CCHC and the Housing Center are low to moderate income people, including: the elderly, farmworkers, families and the disabled.

I write to urge your support for HB 3357, which will double the Document Recording Fee and provide critical, flexible funds to affordable housing. This bill's modest \$20 increase in the fee will generate an additional \$24,000,000 per biennium to help tackle our statewide housing crisis.

At my agency, the document recording fee has been critical in support of the Mid-Columbia Housing Resource Center. The Center provides unbiased information, education and referrals to help local residents make informed housing decisions. The document recording fees, through the HOAP funding, has allowed us to among other things, hold 22 Homebuyer Education classes, with over 160 people attending. The HOAP Downpayment funds have allowed 15 families to receive \$66,800 in downpayment funds. These funds were leveraged to allow a total of \$2,255,400 in purchase prices of homes in the area. These are just a few examples of how the recording fee income is used in our agency.

HB 3357 is a priority bill this session for the Housing Alliance and for the Oregon Opportunity Network. As an Oregon ON member, I urge your support, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Peters
Housing Center Manager

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