



HOUSING ALLIANCE

House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 3175

March 23, 2017

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Olson, Vice Chair Sanchez, and members of the Committee:

My name is Jenny Lee, and I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance in support of House Bill 3175. The Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than 80 organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the base on which all of our success is built – individual success as students, parents, workers, and community members as well as the success of our communities. We represent a diverse set of voices from residents to local jurisdictions to non-profit housing developers and organizations working to meet basic needs in every corner of our state.

Homeownership is an opportunity for long-term housing stability and wealth building. As home prices have risen dramatically throughout Oregon, these benefits are moving out of reach for prospective homebuyers with low and moderate incomes. Housing Alliance members report they have many clients who are prepared to purchase, with strong credit and stable incomes, yet there are scarcely any units that they can afford.

HB 3175 would adjust the income requirements of the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) affordable housing for homeownership units so that households earning up to 80 percent of the area median income are eligible. The income eligibility requirements for rental housing would remain unchanged. Affordable homeownership developers throughout the state are ready to use these funds to serve households who are ready to purchase homes and whose incomes are between 30 to 80 percent of the area median income.

By using LIFT bonds to fund affordable homeownership units, we can bring the benefits of homeownership to more families today and in the future. It's time to make a commitment to affordable homeownership opportunities, which we believe are a critical part of the solution to our state's affordable housing crisis. Allowing the use of LIFT bonds to serve families in this income range will complement our strategies to meet our state's entire spectrum of housing needs.

We strongly encourage you to vote in support of HB 3175. Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Lee', is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jenny Lee on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance

Housing Alliance Members

1000 Friends
211info
A Community Together (Lane County)
Aging in the Gorge
Benton County Health Department
Benton Habitat for Humanity
Bienestar
Bradley Angle
CASA of Oregon
Central City Concern
Church Women United of Lane County
City of Beaverton
City of Eugene
City of Hillsboro
City of Portland
City of Tigard
Clackamas County
Coalition of Community Health Clinics
Coalition of Housing Advocates
Common Ground OR-WA
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Community Alliance of Tenants
Community Energy Project
Community Housing Fund
Community Partners for Affordable Housing
Community Vision
Cornerstone Community Housing
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Enterprise Community Partners
Evolve Property Management
Fair Housing Council of Oregon
Farmworker Housing Development Corp.
FOOD for Lane County
Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East
Hacienda CDC
Housing Authority of Clackamas County
Housing Development Center
Human Solutions
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization
Impact Northwest

JOIN
Lane County Health and Human Services
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lincoln County
Mainstream Housing, Inc.
Metro
Momentum Alliance
NAYA Family Center
Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.
Neighborhood Partnerships
NeighborImpact
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Nightingale Public Advocacy Project
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Pilot Project
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
Oregon Food Bank
Oregon Housing Authorities
Oregon Opportunity Network
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives
Portland Homeless Family Solutions
Portland Tenants United
Proud Ground
Raphael House
REACH CDC
St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.
ShelterCare
Sisters Habitat for Humanity
Sponsors, Inc.
SquareOne Villages
Street Roots
Transition Projects
Urban League of Portland
Washington County
Welcome Home Coalition
Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services