



April 5, 2017

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

I write on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network (Oregon ON), to urge your support for HB 3373, which would fund two positions focused on affordable housing and land use coordination – one at Housing and Community Services and one at the Department of Land Conservation and Development. As you know, the charges of these two agencies are connected, specifically related to Goal 10 (Housing), yet over the years there has been a distinct silo-ing of their mission and programs.

This bill will add capacity to enable the agencies to collaborate and align their work. A relatively small investment of dedicated staff, focused intentionally on coordination and alignment, we believe has the potential for significant impact on our collective efforts to address our statewide shortage of affordable housing.

As an example of how this type of dedicated staffing can have a significant impact: at HCS, the addition a few years ago of two “housing integrator” positions has made a critical difference in building relationships, forging collaborations and advancing innovative projects and policy around the state, in areas such as the intersection of housing with health care.

As partners to the State, we know agency staff are stretched and that more capacity is needed to enable the kind of coordination and policy innovation that we as stakeholders, want to see. Having new positions dedicated to the mission of fostering collaboration and innovation between agencies and among the various stakeholders has the potential to pay huge dividends far beyond the relatively small investment of two FTE positions. We urge you to support HB 3373 and to make a small but crucial investment in collaboration and innovation in order to increase the availability of affordable housing.

Thank you very much for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,

Jerome Brooks
Executive Director

Oregon ON member organizations:

Statewide

CASA of Oregon
Cascadia Behavioral
Healthcare
Catholic Charities
Enterprise Community
Partners
Habitat for Humanity of
Oregon
Housing Development
Center
NOAH (Network for
Oregon Affordable
Housing)
Northwest Housing
Alternatives
Rural Community
Assistance Corporation

Central & Eastern Oregon

Columbia Cascade
Housing
Community Connection
of NE Oregon
Housing Works
NeighborImpact
UGMW Nonprofit
Development
Corporation

Coastal

Northwest Coastal
Housing
Community Action
Team, Inc.

Southern Oregon

ACCESS
Housing Authority of
Jackson County
NeighborWorks Umpqua

Willamette Valley

Catholic Community
Services Foundation
Community Home
Builders
Cornerstone Community
Housing
Farmworker Housing
Development
Corporation
Housing and Community
Services of Lane County
(HACSA)
Integrated Supports for
Living, Inc.
NEDCO
Polk CDC
St Vincent de Paul of
Lane County

Willamette
Neighborhood Housing
Services

Portland Metro

Bienestar
BRIDGE Housing
Central City Concern
Community Housing
Fund
CPAH
Habitat for Humanity
Portland/Metro East
Hacienda CDC
Home Forward
Housing Authority of
Clackamas County
Housing Authority of
Washington County
Human Solutions, Inc.
Innovative Housing, Inc.
NAYA Family Center
PCRI
Portland Housing Center
Proud Ground
REACH Community
Development
ROSE Community
Development
Sabin CDC

...Plus over 100 businesses, government agencies, community organizations and individuals across Oregon who support our mission.