



April 6, 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 ask for your support for HB 3155, which would establish a task force to study the sale and use of surplus public lands to address housing shortages across the state.

As you know, the availability of land, particularly in “high opportunity” areas near schools, parks, shopping and other services, is one of the key factors affecting the ability of nonprofit and for-profit developers to make affordable housing projects pencil out. It continues to be the case that we need as many tools as possible to help address the statewide shortage of affordable housing. Establishing a task force to identify ways in which to direct surplus lands to affordable housing is a great step forward.

Creating a streamlined process that would prioritize the sale or donation of surplus public land for affordable housing is an idea that advocates have raised in the past. We very much appreciate the sponsors of this bill bringing this idea back to the table.

It is our hope that the task force will result in proposals that will make it possible to develop more affordable housing, quickly and cost-effectively, while putting surplus public land to this vital use – giving more Oregonians a safe, stable, affordable place to call home. We urge your support for HB 3155.

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.