



# HOUSING ALLIANCE

April 6, 2017

House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

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

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our support for HB 3373. 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.

We know that communities thrive when residents have safe, stable homes that they can afford. Local governments throughout the state recognize the importance of an adequate supply of housing to meet the needs of their residents, and yet, these governments face challenges in meeting these needs.

Local governments are looking to the state for planning resources and technical expertise to help with developing long-term plans to provide needed housing for their residents. HB 3373 creates two new joint positions, one at the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), and one at Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS). Both positions would focus on providing assistance and education to local governments, developers, and community members. These positions would also draft, review, update, and recommend changes to state policy, rules, technical guidebooks, and other resources relating to housing.

This bill is the result of discussions from the 2013 workgroup on Affordability, Balance and Choice. Co-chaired by Representatives Reardon and Parrish, the group discussed ideas that would help local communities gain more capacity and tools to address their housing needs.

In 2014, Oregon Housing and Community Services created a “Housing Integrator” position, which was designed to better integrate housing into other state systems. The Housing Integrators at OHCS have worked to help better integrate housing and planning for housing needs into the Coordinated Care Organization system, the Early Learning Hubs, and Regional Solutions Teams, among other systems.

In 2016, Oregon Housing and Community Services and the Department of Land Conservation and Development included these positions in their Agency Request Budgets, and unfortunately these positions were not included in the Governor’s Budget. The Oregon Housing Alliance began talking to members about these positions in May of 2016 with the idea that we might support the agency’s requests should they be included in the Governor’s Budget.

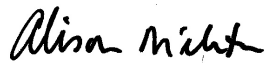
During our agenda setting process, we traveled throughout Oregon and met with housing developers, service providers, local jurisdictions, and others. This concept universally garnered support and interest from local jurisdictions, planners, and housing developers. It is for this reason that we are here today to urge your support of HB 3373 – we believe these positions will meet a critical need in our communities.

We believe that by providing centralized resources and technical support, local governments can more efficiently address local housing needs and help communities identify what will work for them. Communities can learn from each other's successes and best practices, and state policy will be enriched through dedicated staffing. These positions would strengthen coordination between OHCS and DLCD, help local governments improve their housing planning and zoning, and support implementation of new legislation that involves both housing and land use.

To truly address our state's housing crisis, we will all need to work together to solve these problems. These positions are an investment in the future of Oregon by enabling better and more efficient planning for housing creation at both the state and local levels.

We urge your support of HB 3373. Thank you for your consideration, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison McIntosh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alison McIntosh  
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*