



# HOUSING ALLIANCE

Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 3175

May 1, 2017

Dear Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Olsen, and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our 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 General Obligation bonds to fund affordable homeownership units through the LIFT program, we can bring the benefits of homeownership to more families. A commitment to affordable homeownership opportunities is a critical part of the solution to our state's affordable housing crisis. Allowing the use of LIFT funds 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', written over a faint circular stamp.

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 Christian Voices  
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*