

LIVING CULLY



Living Cully
6899 NE Columbia Blvd, Suite A
Portland, OR 97218

May 19, 2017

Dear Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

I am writing on behalf of Living Cully, a coalition of community development organizations in the Cully neighborhood of NE Portland. We strongly urge you to dedicate \$100 million in lottery-backed bonds toward the preservation of affordable housing, as part of SB 5530.

The Cully neighborhood is home large populations of immigrants, refugees, people of color, older adults, and lower-income residents. As rents and property values increase, much of the housing in our neighborhood that *has* been affordable for our diverse community is being lost to redevelopment or massive rent increases – such as the Normandy Apartments, where 18 families lost their homes after investors bought the building and doubled the rents earlier this year.

We are fighting to hold on to our neighborhood's existing stock of affordable homes, in order to prevent displacement and preserve opportunities for lower-income families to have stable, healthy, affordable housing here in Cully for decades into the future. We are particularly concerned about the fate of six manufactured housing parks, home to over 1000 residents, that are located in our neighborhood. As property values increase, we fear that these parks will be sold and redeveloped, with all of the current low-income residents forced out of their homes.

The inclusion of housing preservation funds in SB 5530 will create opportunities for us to preserve these affordable homes and keep them affordable for generations to come.

Thank you for your leadership in addressing the affordable housing crisis facing our state.

Sincerely,

Cameron Herrington
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