



February 20, 2017

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

I write on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network and our members from around the state (listed on reverse), in support of SB 2852, which will extend and expand the Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit (OAHTC).

As you recently heard in testimony from our members NOAH, REACH, and Home Forward, and from our partners the Housing Alliance, the OAHTC is a vital tool for affordable housing development. It is efficient and effective: there is very little administrative overhead, and the benefits go directly to tenants in the form of lower rents. Every \$1 million in OAHTCs leverages \$25 million in private loans and produces \$75 to \$100 million in economic benefit through development activity. The program both helps leverage dollars for housing development and directly supports the stability of vulnerable Oregonians by ensuring their rents are kept affordable for the long term.

As nonprofit housing developers, Oregon ON members work hard in communities around the state to make projects pencil and ensure we have durable, well-built homes delivered as efficiently as possible. But we simply don't have enough resources to keep up with the urgent needs in all parts of the state. After years of disinvestment at the federal level, we need a whole range of state and local investments to build, rehabilitate and preserve affordable housing of all types – including manufactured homes, rental housing and single-family homes.

In this time of extreme uncertainty at the Federal level, including shortfalls in the Federal housing tax credit market, now more than ever we need our Oregon-based affordable housing tax credit program. Through HB 2852, we ask you to renew the tax credit program and to expand the current \$17 million cap to \$34 million.

Thank you very much for your consideration and as always, for your leadership.

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  
United Community Action  
Network

### 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.