



January 31, 2018

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

hhs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

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

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. *I am writing to you to express my strong support for HB 4007.* My name is Diane Linn and I serve as Executive Director of Proud Ground. Proud Ground provides permanently affordable homeownership opportunities to families in Oregon, primarily for people of color in the metro area and for the rural community of Lincoln County. While half the jobs created in Oregon are at 60% of the area medium income, those households at 60% AMI cannot afford to purchase a home given the rising market costs. In response, Proud Ground targets working families making on average 60% AMI and provides them with the education and resources to achieve homeownership through the Community Land Trust model.

As both the co-chair of the State Homeownership Workgroup and Board Member of Housing Oregon, I am actively involved in the effort to identify the most appropriate resources for homeownership and other critical housing needs. These state-wide organizations collectively promote homeownership, serving households between 32% MFI to 125% MFI – a critical housing need in nearly every corner of Oregon. Having experienced the need for affordable homeownership opportunities, I can attest that HB 4007 serves this need by expanding a critical housing resource.

Permanently affordable homeownership provides hardworking, housing cost-burdened households with an opportunity to not just build wealth, but to flourish in all aspects family stability. Proud Ground's research shows that children in homes owned by their parents are more likely to succeed in school and families in homeownership will experience increases in education

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levels, employment gains, health indicators, and civic involvement. Homeownership not only ensures that the first household has the ability to thrive, but that generations within that household are positively impacted by the stability gains caused by homeownership.

On behalf of the team at Proud Ground and the 350 homeowners served, I ask the committee to support HB 4007 and increase the document recording fee for the purposes indicated. The document recording fee is a fee charged when a buyer records their documents on a home purchase, change to the title, or other real estate documents. HB 4007 recommends an increase to \$75, which would go a long way in supporting families with down-payment assistance.

With the support of HB 4007's increase in downpayment assistance, Proud Ground could triple the number families served in the Portland Metro area and in Lincoln County. Currently, Proud Ground receives down-payment assistance funds for 10 households annually. Increased funding would result in an ability to serve 30 households annually, reaching more households on Proud Ground's waitlist of 435 families. This is a critical step in the right direction. Along with Proud Ground's statewide partners, the investment could make a serious impact in the number of families on homeownership organization's collective wait lists.

Oregon is becoming a harder place for people on limited incomes to live. As a native, this is not the Oregon I know and love, and I urge us to action. I ask for your support of HB4007.

Thank you for your consideration!

Diane Linn, Executive Director

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