

January 30, 2018

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

Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services enthusiastically supports HB 4007, which expands the document recording fee to provide additional dedicated, ongoing funding for affordable housing to help address the Oregon housing crisis. The increase will make it possible for community development organizations like WNHS to develop more affordable, multifamily rental housing, help more families find decent and stable housing, and help families realize the American Dream of homeownership in a sustainable way.

Because of the document recording fee and other sources, WNHS has developed 382 apartments at 19 urban and rural locations in Linn and Benton counties. Every night we house about 1,000 people, almost half of whom are children or seniors; and 2 of every 3 households have extremely low incomes, at or below 30% of area median income. Our most recent development includes 8 new homes for previously homeless veterans. With additional document recording fee support, we will be able to provide homes to even more of our state's most vulnerable citizens.

WNHS also relies on document recording fee support to operate a regional Homeownership Center. Since starting the program we have helped over 1,150 families in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties purchase their first home and have educated/counseled over 3,800 families about the home buying process. Increasing the document recording fee will allow WNHS to continue to provide these important services, expand the availability of down payment assistance, and make homeownership possible for more first time homebuyers.

In rural and urban counties across the state, far too many of our neighbors struggle to make ends meet and find themselves choosing between paying the rent and putting food on the table. All over Oregon, families who dream of buying their first home find homeownership out of reach. **But with your support of HB 4007, together we can make it possible for everyone in Oregon to have a decent, stable, and affordable place to call home.**

Thank you so much for your service to our great state!

Sincerely,



Jim Moorefield, Executive Director

Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services