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House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301
Via email: hhs.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

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

I am the coordinator of the Housing Committee of the Aging in the Gorge Alliance (AGA), a grassroots organization that works with governments, businesses, nonprofits, faith communities, and others to enhance planning and services for elders and their caregivers in the Columbia River Gorge area.

We focus particularly on the affordable housing needs of lower-income seniors. Creating housing opportunity for them is important to us. Many of them struggle to make ends meet. They are often forced to choose between paying rent and putting food on the table. In addition to meeting their general need for a safe, stable, affordable place to call home, supporting housing opportunity for seniors can allow them to “age in place” (i.e. in their own home, in their own community), which is the desire of most seniors.

I’m writing to urge you to support HB 4007, which will increase the document recording fee. This fee is charged when you record the documents on a home purchase or change to the title, or other real estate documents. The fee goes to three purposes:

- 10% goes to emergency rent assistance;
- 14% goes to help folks access homeownership – right now, it’s used for down payment assistance and education and counseling; and
- 76% goes to build more affordable homes.

Within each of these accounts, 25% is set aside to serve veterans.

The availability of these funds for rent assistance or for home repairs is crucial in supporting lower-income elders, and can help with the biggest problem we have here in the Gorge – lack of affordable housing stock. Changing the recording fee from the current \$20 to the proposed \$75 would dramatically increase the funds available for all of these objectives.

Housing opportunity for the elders in our community and for their caregivers is much needed, and we respectfully request your full support of HB4007.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bonnie New

Coordinator, Housing Committee
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