



February 5, 2018

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

**Re: Oregon Economic Development Association Supports HB 4007**

Chair Keny-Guyer and committee members,

The Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA) is a statewide non-profit organization working to support economic development professionals who are on Oregon's front line in diversifying and expanding Oregon's economy. OEDA's membership includes a mix of public and private entities from economic development corporations, cities, utilities and other stakeholders interested in bringing traded-sector jobs to Oregon.

While OEDA looks to attract new jobs to Oregon, we also seek to provide current and potential employers with land and infrastructure for expanding or siting new operations, and then feed those operations with a qualified, local workforce. HB 4007 can be a step in both these directions.

As we all know, Oregon is facing a growing housing shortage, a problem that hits all Oregonians, from low-income families, to first time home buyers, and those relocating for better opportunities or new jobs. The proposal in HB 4007 to create better infrastructure for first-time home buyers and direct recording fees to affordable housing projects is a laudable policy goal.

As Oregon experiences unprecedented growth, employers we work with every day compete for employees that look to relocate their families near work. We believe HB 4007 will help facilitate housing options for all income levels, as benefit to the critical workforce needed to keep Oregon's economy growing. Secondly, we also believe that facilitating housing starts and providing a mechanism for low-income housing will further the discussion over Oregon's current land supply, land use system, and the desperate need for available land for commercial, residential and industrial use.

For these reasons, we believe that HB 4007 is good for Oregon, good for Oregon workers, and good for Oregon's economy.

Thank you,

Chad Freeman, Government Affairs Chair