



# HOUSING ALLIANCE

February 6, 2018

Senate Finance and Revenue Committee  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Hass and Vice Chair Boquist:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our strong support for SB 1528, and in particular, its provision that extends the sunset on ORS 307.517, which provides a local option property tax exemption for affordable housing.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a coalition of more than eighty organizations from all parts of the state. Our members have come together with the knowledge that housing opportunity is the foundation on which all of our success is built – individual success as students, parents, workers, and community members. We represent a diverse set of voices including residents, local jurisdictions, non-profit housing developers, and organizations working to meet basic needs.

We believe that all Oregonians need a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. Today, we simply don't have enough affordable homes for people who need them, and vacancy rates have dropped precipitously towards zero in communities across Oregon. People are struggling with homelessness, housing instability, rent burdens, and to make ends meet and put food on the table. During the last school year, over 22,500 of our school children in grades K – 12 experienced homelessness.

We have many ways tools and strategies to address our affordable housing needs, and one key strategy is a local option property tax exemption. When affordable housing developments are exempted from paying property taxes, this means they can lower the rent for tenants or will need less public resources to initially develop the building.

We know that when our communities have safe and stable housing for its residents, the community benefits. Children are stable in school, and come ready to learn. Parents are able to go to work on time, and people with access to safe, stable and affordable housing are healthier.

SB 1528 will extend this property tax exemption for six months, from January 1, 2020 to July 1, 2020. This will align it with the property tax year. Advocates will begin discussions with Legislators prior to the 2019 Legislative session to discuss a full, ten year sunset extension. We urge you to pass SB 1528 with the property tax exemption sunset extension included.

Thank you very much for your time, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison McIntosh".

Alison McIntosh  
On Behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance

## Housing Alliance Members

*1000 Friends of Oregon*

*211info*

*A Community Together (Lane County)*

*Aging in the Gorge*

*Benton County Health Department*

*Benton Habitat for Humanity*

*Bienestar*

*Bradley Angle*

*BRIDGE Housing*

*CASA of Oregon*

*Central City Concern*

*Church Women United of Lane County*

*City of Beaverton*

*City of Eugene*

*City of Hillsboro*

*City of Portland*

*City of Tigard*

*Clackamas County*

*Coalition of Community Health Clinics*

*Coalition of Housing Advocates*

*Common Ground OR-WA*

*Community Action Partnership of Oregon*

*Community Alliance of Tenants*

*Community Energy Project*

*Community Housing Fund*

*Community Partners for Affordable Housing*

*Community Vision*

*Cornerstone Community Housing*

*Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon*

*Enterprise Community Partners*

*Evolve Property Management*

*Fair Housing Council of Oregon*

*Farmworker Housing Development Corp.*

*FOOD for Lane County*

*Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County*

*Habitat for Humanity of Oregon*

*Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East*

*Hacienda CDC*

*Housing Authority of Clackamas County*

*Housing Development Center*

*Housing Oregon*

*Human Solutions*

*Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization*

*Impact Northwest*

*JOIN*

*Lane County Health and Human Services*

*League of Women Voters of Oregon*

*Lincoln County*

*Mainstream Housing Inc.*

*Metro*

*Mid-Columbia Housing Authority*

*Momentum Alliance*

*NAYA Family Center*

*Neighborhood Economic Development Corp.*

*Neighborhood Partnerships*

*NeighborImpact*

*NeighborWorks Umpqua*

*Network for Oregon Affordable Housing*

*Nightingale Public Advocacy Project*

*Northwest Housing Alternatives*

*Northwest Pilot Project*

*Oregon AFSCME Council 75*

*Oregon Center for Christian Voices*

*Oregon Center for Public Policy*

*Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness*

*Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities*

*Oregon Food Bank*

*Oregon Housing Authorities*

*Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon*

*Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives*

*Proud Ground*

*Raphael House*

*REACH CDC*

*St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.*

*ShelterCare*

*Sisters Habitat for Humanity*

*Sponsors, Inc.*

*SquareOne Villages*

*Street Roots*

*Transition Projects*

*Urban League of Portland*

*Washington County*

*Welcome Home Coalition*

*Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services*