

February 6th, 2018

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

Re: Multnomah County Support of HB 4007

Chair Keny Guyer and Human Services and Housing Committee Members:

Oregon and Multnomah County need stable funding for affordable housing to support our kids, families, and workers, now and for the future prosperity of our region. One of the County's key priorities is helping residents exit or avoid homelessness - particularly families with children, older adults, and Veterans.

That's why we're asking the Committee to support HB 4007, which will increase the document recording fee.

The fee increase will go directly toward helping people afford the rent in a region where rents take up a large portion of one's income. Higher rent means less financial flexibility in other areas of one's budget. Emergencies such as illness, a car repair or a reduction in work hours and other financial bumps in the road can lead to evictions or cascade into homelessness.

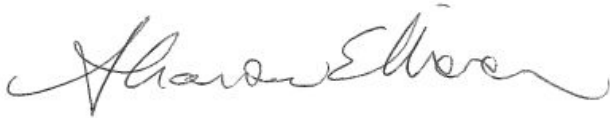
We see the powerful impact that State Funds such as the Low Income Housing Rental Fund program (LIHRF), the Elderly Rental Assistance Program (ERA) which helps stabilize 70 seniors each year in housing; and the Emergency Housing Assistance program (EHA) which helps 778 households a year.

Lastly, an increase in the document recording fee will also help bolster the supply of affordable homes and it will aid people looking to buy a home. Currently, Multnomah County needs approximately 30,000 new units. The County and the City of Portland will be able to pair local affordable housing funds with existing State funds and the document recording fee for the development of new affordable housing.

An increase in the document recording fee is a long term investment in the future of our neighborhoods because when people have a stable home, they are able to be more successful in work, school and community.



Deborah Kafoury
Chair, Multnomah County



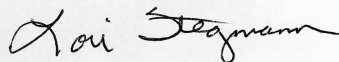
Sharon Meieran
Commissioner District 1, Multnomah County



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