



*Housing Oregon
Board members:*

*Sheila Stiley,
Board chair – NW
Coastal Housing*

*Diane Linn,
Vice-chair - Proud
Ground*

*Travis Phillips,
Secretary –
Catholic Charities
of Oregon*

*Trell Anderson,
Treasurer –NW
Housing
Alternatives*

*Rachael Duke -
Community
Partners for
Affordable Housing*

*Ernesto Fonseca -
Hacienda CDC*

*Nkenge Harmon
Johnson – Urban
League of Portland*

*Sean Hubert-
Central City
Concern*

*Richard Morrow –
Columbia Cascade
Housing Corp.*

*Arielle Reid –
NeighborWorks
Umpqua*

*Lisa Rogers –
CASA of Oregon*

November 8, 2020

The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair State Emergency Board and The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair State Emergency Board
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Senator Courtney, Representative Kotek:

Housing Oregon urges the Emergency Board to support Project Turnkey as the right strategy and investment needed now to ensure non-congregate housing for Oregonians without housing as the COVID-19 crisis worsens and winter approaches. Oregon Community Foundation has a strong track record as fiscal agents for numerous community-led responses to statewide crisis and has the confidence of a broad, multi-sector partnership supporting this approach.

Our members have firsthand experience with how COVID has upended Oregon's shelter network this past year. Physical distancing requirements necessitate we expand non-congregate shelter options in this COVID-19 environment. Securing and operationalizing sufficient shelter capacity under these new circumstances is more expensive than traditional mass shelter strategies.

The pandemic and recent wildfires have had a disproportionate impact on communities of color in Oregon, further impacting the very families most vulnerable to these concurrent crises. We endorse the overall Project Turnkey strategy to purchase approximately 18-20 hotels/motels across the state creating approximately 1,000 units of housing to address the community need before the onset of winter.

This is a community-driven response involving the collaboration of experienced social service providers, local government, housing and real estate experts, and philanthropy. We have great confidence in the Oregon Community Foundation as the fiscal agent for this program and local community partners who will operate these projects.

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of affordable housing Community Development Corporations committed

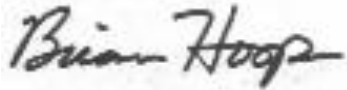
P.O. Box 8427, Portland, OR 97207

to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner. We are working towards a day when every Oregonian has a safe and healthy place to call home.

We support Project Turnkey as a wise and timely use of State resources to provide immediate support to our most vulnerable community members and help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions at 503-475-6056 or brian@housingoregon.org.

Sincerely,



Brian Hoop
Executive Director
Housing Oregon

CC:

Senator Lynn Findley
Senate Republican Leader Fred Girod
Senator Betsy Johnson
Senator Arnie Roblan
Senator Kathleen Taylor
House Republican Leader Christine Drazen
Representative Paul Holvey
Representative Rob Nosse
Representative Greg Smith
Committee administrator, Ken Rocco

Senator Lew Frederick
Senator Bill Hansell
Senator James Manning Jr.
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Senator Chuck Thomsen
Representative David Gomberg
Representative Susan McLain
Representative Dan Rayfield
Representative Duane Stark