



*Housing Oregon  
Board members:*

February 1, 2019

*Sheila Stiley,  
Board chair – NW  
Coastal Housing*

Senator Shemia Fagan  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

*Diane Linn,  
Vice-chair - Proud  
Ground*

*Travis Phillips,  
Secretary –  
Catholic Charities  
of Oregon*

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, Members of the Committee:

*Trell Anderson,  
Treasurer –NW  
Housing  
Alternatives*

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of affordable housing community development corporations (CDCs) committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner. We support and strengthen our members by providing training on industry best practices, peer support networks, communications, and advocacy on local and statewide policy issues.

*Rachael Duke -  
Community  
Partners for  
Affordable Housing*

*Ernesto Fonseca -  
Hacienda CDC*

We are working towards a day when every Oregonian has a safe and healthy place to call home.

*Nkenge Harmon  
Johnson – Urban  
League of Portland*

SB 608 will help reach that goal. We encourage you to vote YES on SB608.

*Sean Hubert-  
Central City  
Concern*

Every community in our state is being impacted by our housing crisis, and residents are struggling to make ends meet. They are often forced to choose between paying rent and putting food on the table. We need help to make sure that everyone has a safe, stable, affordable place to call home.

*Richard Morrow –  
Columbia Cascade  
Housing Corp.*

*Lisa Rogers –  
CASA of Oregon*

Oregon has a serious shortage of affordable housing. In Jackson County, home to ACCESS in Medford, for every 100 families with extremely low incomes, there are only 15 affordable units available. In Marion County, where Integrated Supports for Living is located, 1 out of 4 of all renters are paying more than 50% of their income in rent.

*Shannon Singleton  
- JOIN*

Workers can't afford rent in Multnomah County, where Human Solutions is based. There a household must earn at least \$49,680 to afford a 2-bedroom apartment at fair market rent. 7.4%, or 160,274 of all jobs in the county in 2017 earned the minimum wage, or less, of \$23,400 per year.

Homeownership is also out of reach for many, including in Deschutes County, home to NeighborImpact in Redmond, where the average home price an individual with area median income can afford is \$288,673 while the average home sale price in 2017 was \$437,107.

On behalf of the board of Housing Oregon, we ask the Senate Committee on Housing to vote yes to support SB 608. People who rent their homes are depending on the Legislature to act to provide basic protections and stability. We know we need to address a range of issues to solve the housing problems our communities are facing, and it is critical the Legislature act now to pass SB 608.

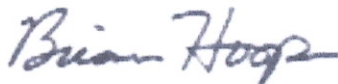
Please vote yes on SB 608.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter and for your thoughtful attention to this critical issue. Feel free to contact me, Brian Hoop, at 503-475-6056 or Sheila Stiley at 503-270-3071.

Sincerely,



Sheila Stiley  
Board Chair, Housing Oregon  
Executive Director, NW Coastal Housing



Brian Hoop  
Director, Housing Oregon