



*Housing Oregon
Board members:*

February 2, 2019

*Sheila Stiley,
Board chair – NW
Coastal Housing*

Representative Keny-Guyer
Chair

*Diane Linn,
Vice-chair - Proud
Ground*

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

*Travis Phillips,
Secretary –
Catholic Charities
of Oregon*

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and 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*

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

*Ernesto Fonseca -
Hacienda CDC*

HB 2055 and 2056 will help reach that goal. We encourage you to support HB 2055 and 2056.

*Nkenge Harmon
Johnson – Urban
League of Portland*

As nonprofit developers of affordable housing, Housing Oregon member organizations have identified the need for workforce housing in their communities as a priority, especially as a strategy for addressing disparities in housing needs in rural Oregon. As a starting point, we are excited to see progress being made on the initial pilot projects in Donald, Pacific City, Warm Springs, Harney County, and Lincoln City.

*Sean Hubert-
Central City
Concern*

*Richard Morrow –
Columbia Cascade
Housing Corp.*

*Lisa Rogers –
CASA of Oregon*

HB 2055 would help incentivize bringing together local businesses, employees, and broader community in collaboration to overcome challenges our member organizations have long identified are unique to developing affordable housing in rural Oregon – limited access to contractors and construction trade workers, limited capacity of local jurisdictions to expedite

*Shannon Singleton
- JOIN*

acquisition of land and public infrastructure, as well as limited access to capital.

This is a win-win strategy supporting both employers' ability to attract and retain employees and affordable housing developers' ability to piece together limited resources available to them in rural communities. We see this program as an effective tool for building relationships and collaboration between employers/business, local community and housing developers to come up with creative and effective solutions which are attentive to the unique needs of their communities.

We also urge you to support HB 2056 which updates a current Loan Guarantee Program at OHCS to make it a more flexible tool to help support development in Greater Oregon. We are encouraged the technical changes proposed in HB 2056 will unlock potential housing development in rural areas. We have heard from our rural member organizations of existing guidelines limiting their ability to take advantage of this resource. The Loan Guarantee Program would be a tool that communities could apply for as part of the Accelerator program.

Please support HB 2056 and 2066.

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 541-574-0320.

Sincerely,



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



Brian Hoop
Director, Housing Oregon