



February 4, 2019

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the Committee:

The Housing Authorities of Oregon, the statewide association of 22 public housing authorities that serve all 36 counties, support the passage of SB 608. Collectively, housing authorities are the largest provider of affordable housing in the state. We provide more than 33,000 rental assistance vouchers that bring over \$175 million in rent payments annually to, primarily, private landlords. Additionally, we have developed and manage affordable rental homes for more than 10,000 families.

The provisions in SB 608 align with the policies we currently adopt for the management of the units we develop with state and federal resources. Those requirements have not hindered our ability to successfully manage our portfolio of properties or to create safe, stable homes within our communities around the state.

As a mission-oriented landlord, we work to provide an affordable home to people with the lowest incomes. Over the past several years, we have seen people with Housing Choice Vouchers receive significant rent increases which have impacted their ability to stay in their home. Roughly two of every three of the people we serve through our voucher program are seniors or people with disabilities who live on a fixed income.

Housing instability has huge and negative consequences on all of us. The provisions outlined in SB 608 comprise a reasonable, effective deterrent to actions that can create chaos for a household, while respecting the legitimate financial needs of those of us managing and maintaining rental properties.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for SB 608.

Respectfully,

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