



2310 First St., Ste. 2  
Tillamook, OR 97141  
Tel. 503-842-5261  
FAX 503-842-5821  
[www.careinc.org](http://www.careinc.org)

Board of Directors

Lisa Phipps,  
*Chair*  
Regional Solutions Team

Paul Dinan  
*Vice-Chair*  
Retired

Emilie Sisco  
*Secretary*  
Community Member

Anita Johanson  
Reigning Cats and Dogs

Frank Hanna-Williams  
Tillamook Family Counseling

Tom Jayred  
Retired

Luisa Hernandez  
Tillamook Region Education Services District

Jill Sumerlin  
Retired Teacher



Tillamook County United Way

CARE is a United Way  
Member Agency

Feb 18, 2019

Senate Committee on Housing  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 595

Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, and members of the committee

Tillamook County Community Action Resource Enterprises, Inc. (CARE) supports SB 595. This new legislation taps one of the few funding sources available in our small rural county to provide critically needed funding for the support of housing development.

CARE works to alleviate the effects of poverty in Tillamook County. A county where the majority of our wage earners make minimum wage or barely above; a place where the seasonal tourist industry provides less than full employment; and a place where the growth of very expensive second and vacation homes is not only far outpacing the growth of workforce housing, but is also taking existing workforce housing stock and repurposing it for tourism purposes.

As the local provider of homeless and housing services, CARE knows that the nexus between housing and other basic needs is strong. Clients increasingly tell us that they have to make the tough choice between rent and food. They speak of ever-increasing rents, fear of evictions and the inability to find an affordable place to call home. Some speak of becoming homeless for the first time because they cannot find an affordable place to live. CARE has been an integral partner in Tillamook County's efforts to address this issue.

Tillamook County initially benefitted from the original legislation establishing the TLT funding. We saw our economy grow through an influx of people staying in our hotels, eating in our restaurants and shopping in our stores. The funding extended our tourism season resulting in a stronger economy. However, a strong tourism-based economy requires more workers and workers require housing. Tillamook is beginning to see the tide turn in the wrong direction with businesses adapting to the lack of workforce by reducing hours, availability of services, and in some cases, closing their doors. The workers who have moved here intending to take those jobs are leaving and clearly stating that they simply cannot find a place to live.

This bill offers an innovative solution: a portion of the TLT funding that has strengthened our economy with the unintended but very real consequence of exacerbating our housing crisis, would be repurposed to allow 30% of the 70% of the received TLT dollars currently obligated to marketing and tourism promotion to contribute towards solutions to the local housing crisis.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Phipps, Board Chair