



*Housing Oregon
Board members:*

February 18, 2019

*Sheila Stiley,
Board chair – NW
Coastal Housing*

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer
Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
900 Court St. NE, H-272
Salem, OR 97301

*Diane Linn,
Vice-chair - Proud
Ground*

*Travis Phillips,
Secretary –
Catholic Charities
of Oregon*

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair Noble, Vice-Chair Sanchez,
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*

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

*Nkenge Harmon
Johnson – Urban
League of Portland*

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.

*Sean Hubert-
Central City
Concern*

*Richard Morrow –
Columbia Cascade
Housing Corp.*

Oregon has a serious shortage of affordable housing. In Josephine County, home to United Community Action Network in Grants Pass, for every 100 families with extremely low incomes, there are only 30 affordable units available. In Polk County, where Polk Community Development Corporation is located, 1 out of 4 of all renters are paying more than 50% of their income in rent.

*Lisa Rogers –
CASA of Oregon*

*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 Yamhill County, home to Community Home Builders in McMinnville, where the average home price a construction laborer can afford is \$163,036 while the average home sale price in 2017 was \$344,914.

On behalf of the board of Housing Oregon, we ask the House Committee on Human Services and Housing to vote yes in support of 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.

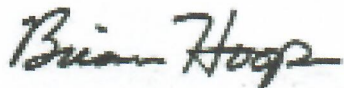
Please vote yes on SB 608.

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