



March 4, 2019

Oregon Legislature
Members
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Dear House Committee Members:

I am submitting this letter of support for HB 2894, 2895, and 2896 on behalf of United Community Action Network (UCAN), a community action network serving Douglas and Josephine County. UCAN offers Weatherization services, including emergency repairs, for homes. Many of the homes in our service area are manufactured homes: 19.3% in Douglas County and 16.3% in Josephine County. These homes represent a critical component of the affordable housing stock in our two counties. Unfortunately, many of these homes are in very poor condition, particularly those manufactured prior to 1980, before there were any federal regulations regarding such homes' construction or energy efficiency standards. For example, a manufactured home examined this year in far Eastern Douglas County had mushrooms growing up out of its floor. Our available Weatherization funding is inadequate to meet the needs of more than a handful of residents of such homes; in most such cases, it is far better to replace pre-1980 manufactured homes, rather than pay the costs of expensive repairs.

Seeking better solutions to this problem, UCAN has joined as an active partner in a manufactured home replacement pilot for Umpqua Ranch Cooperative in Idleld Park. Partners include Oregon with Energy Trust of Oregon, CASA, Craft3 and Rural Development. This pilot holds the promise of establishing a framework for efficiently and effectively rolling out a more comprehensive replacement program. The proposed home replacement and decommissioning subsidies that would be made available in the proposed House bills will provide critical, additional support for this effort. As such, we strongly support the passage of these bills.

In rural Oregon, replacement of pre-1980 manufactured homes is one of the most cost-effective ways to sustain and increase the available affordable housing stock.

Sincerely,

Mike Fieldman
Executive Director
United Community Action Network



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