

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chair Noble, Representative Williams, Representative Helt, Representative Schouten, Representative Zika, Representative Mitchell, Representative Meek:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our support for HB 2002 and the amendments, which help to maintain our existing affordable housing across Oregon.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a coalition of ninety organizations from all parts of the state. We believe that all Oregonians need a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

In every corner of Oregon apartment homes have been built to make sure families, seniors, and people with disabilities have safe, stable, and affordable housing. Over the years, we've built thousands of affordable apartment homes in towns and cities across Oregon. Some of these affordable apartment homes were built by private owners using resources from the federal government, including rental assistance which helps households with low incomes to pay the rent every month. In many of our smaller communities, these buildings are the only affordable apartment homes available.

These apartment homes have provided stability, safety, and affordability for area residents for the last thirty-plus years. The people who live in these rental homes are seniors, people experiencing disabilities, and families just starting out.

HB 2002 will help to maintain these affordable apartment homes for the next generation. HB 2002 provides an opportunity to purchase these buildings, and maintain them as affordable housing. This right of first refusal will help prevent the loss of critical affordable housing in our communities. HB 2002 also adjusts important timelines for notification that a building may be considering selling or opting out of their expiring contracts.

Lastly, HB 2002 also appropriates \$25 million in lottery bond resources to preserve existing affordable housing, which is critical to our efforts to maintain these properties. This will provide an opportunity to assist in purchasing these properties, and to reinvest in these homes and ensure they will be safe and available for the next generation.

These resources will help make sure the housing remains decent and affordable for another generation. Just like schools or hospitals, affordable rental homes are part of our community's infrastructure, and need investments to ensure the homes are around for the next generation. Investments will ensure this precious resource continues to be available for generations of Oregonians to come.

Affordable housing is an important part of our community infrastructure, and the people who call these apartments home are vital members of our community. We need to make sure we're taking care of the affordable rental homes built in communities across Oregon – these homes are critical to our future. We need to protect these important community assets and the people that call them home.

We urge you to support HB 2002.

Thank you very much for your time, and for your service to our state,
Alison

Alison McIntosh (she, hers)
Policy and Communications Director

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