



Testimony in Support of House Bill 2002 (-2 amendment)  
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Speaker of the House Tina Kotek  
April 3, 2019

Chair Sanchez, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the -2 amendment to House Bill 2002.

The goal of this bill is to give Oregon the tools to maximize our ability to preserve publicly supported housing units. If we don't preserve these units, we will lose ground in our fight to increase the number of subsidized affordable housing units. We can't let this happen, particularly during a statewide housing crisis.

As introduced, the bill expands upon existing tools to preserve publicly supported housing by:

- 1) Adjusting the timeline for notification required when an owner plans to terminate a properties affordability contract. This is an attempt to make the program easier for Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to administer and for the owners of publicly supported housing who must provide notice. A representative from the agency is here if you have any questions about these changes.
- 2) Extending the period during which a qualified purchaser can exercise their right of first refusal. This ensures that if an owner of publicly supported housing terminates affordability and then decides to sell the property a few years later, they are still required to accept a market rate offer made by the state, a local government, or their designee to ensure the units are affordable in the long-term.
- 3) Extending the right of first refusal to all publicly supported housing. HB 2002 (2017) only applied those provisions to publicly supported housing built on or after the effective date of the bill (October 6, 2017). Massachusetts has required a right of first refusal for all subsidized affordable housing for many years, which has helped them preserve more housing.
- 4) Appropriating \$25 million in lottery bonds to OHCS to preserve publicly supported housing. Over the past two biennia (2015-17 and 2017-19), the state has done \$30 million total in lottery bonds for preservation.

The -2 amendment makes additional technical changes to the notification and timeline provisions in statute to make it easier for the agency to administer the program.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.