



April 4, 2019

House Committee on Energy and Environment

Subject: HB 2494 Support

Dear Chair Helm and members of the committee,

The purpose of this letter is to urge your support for HB 2494, which extends the sunset of the Public Purpose Charge.

The Network for Oregon Affordable Housing (NOAH) is a statewide non-profit lender that finances affordable housing projects in Oregon. We operate in all parts of the State and work closely with Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and affordable housing developers to help create and preserve affordable housing in Oregon. We also work on important policy matters related to affordable housing and community development.

The Public Purpose Charge provides essential resources that allow OHCS to improve the energy efficiency of affordable housing developments. The majority of NOAH-funded projects benefit from these resources. It's an investment that produces long term benefits. While this funding is relatively small compared to the total cost of a housing project, without it, the improved efficiency could not be attained in these homes that serve low income households.

The investments in energy efficiency result in greater affordability for low income households by lowering their monthly utility expenses. We know that many renters face high rent burdens and they also pay a disproportionate share of their income for utilities. Rather than paying high utility bills, these households can use those savings for other essential needs such as food and medicine. The improvements also produce healthier homes with greater comfort.

Please support the extension of the Public Purpose Charge. These investments into the efficiency of Oregon's affordable housing stock benefits everyone when it comes to climate mitigation, and the investments directly benefit low income households who live in these homes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William A. Van Vliet".

Bill Van Vliet
Executive Director