

Testimony on HB 3349 – Hearing Monday 4/15/19

Submitted by Diane Linn, Proud Ground

Committee Chair Nancy Nathanson and Committee Members:

My name is Diane Linn, Executive Director of Proud Ground and member of the Board of Directors of Housing Oregon. I'm a former elected official (Multnomah County Chair and Commissioner) and affordable housing professional with a current emphasis on homeownership and the stabilizing benefits for families. We serve the Portland Metro area and Lincoln County and maintain partnerships with Habitat affiliates around the state.

Proud Ground provides homeownership opportunities that are permanently affordable to working families using the community land trust model. We work in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and culturally specific organizations across the state. We serve clients every day that are denied the chance to purchase a home in part because the state is investing in a tax deduction that benefits people in the highest income bracket.

This bill strengthens homeownership for working families with children and prevents homelessness especially with tragic impact on kids, without having to raise any new revenue. The State of Oregon would benefit greatly from the support and stabilization these resources would bring to the most vulnerable citizens and our future – our children.

The time is now to shift resources to where they are truly needed. You have heard the statistics and the rationale – please consider the growing desperate need for people who are rent burdened now – it's getting worst especially for working families raising children. We understand that this is a public policy change that will not be easy, but it is imperative given the affordable housing crisis the State of Oregon presently.

Thank you for your consideration!