



February 11, 2020

RE: Real Estate Transfer Fee

Dear Committee Members,

The Welcome Home Coalition urges your support of HJR 203, which would amend the Oregon Constitution to allow for Real Estate Transfer Fees and create a much needed permanent funding source for affordable housing development.

Welcome Home is a coalition of 65 organizations throughout the tri-county Portland area dedicated to securing new resources to address the housing crisis. In our brief history, our coalition has helped successfully pass two affordable housing bonds in the City of Portland and Metro region, investing nearly \$1 billion in new resources to build new, affordable homes.

Despite this success, we know that these dollars will only meet a fraction of the need in our communities, and there is only so much we can do at the local level to ensure each of our neighbors has an affordable place to call home. Supporting HJR 203 would create a new, permanent funding source that is desperately needed in our region and in communities throughout the state.

The housing crisis is solvable. Each and every day our members are breaking ground on new affordable housing developments, helping individuals experiencing homelessness move into permanent supportive housing, and providing other wrap around services that ensure people are successful in their housing placements. In short, our members know how to address the housing crisis, we simply lack the resources necessary to do so. Your support for HJR 203 can help meet that need in our region, and throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tyler Mac Innis'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tyler Mac Innis, coalition director