



*Housing Oregon  
Board members:*

February 13, 2020

*Sheila Stiley,  
Board chair – NW  
Coastal Housing*

Metro Council President Lynn Peterson  
And Councilors  
600 NE Grand Ave.  
Portland, OR 97232

*Diane Linn,  
Vice-chair - Proud  
Ground*

*Travis Phillips,  
Secretary –  
Catholic Charities  
of Oregon*

*Trell Anderson,  
Treasurer –NW  
Housing  
Alternatives*

*Rachael Duke -  
Community  
Partners for  
Affordable Housing*

*Ernesto Fonseca -  
Hacienda CDC*

*Nkenge Harmon  
Johnson – Urban  
League of Portland*

*Sean Hubert-  
Central City  
Concern*

*Richard Morrow –  
Columbia Cascade  
Housing Corp.*

*Arielle Reid –  
NeighborWorks  
Umpqua*

*Lisa Rogers –  
CASA of Oregon*

Dear Council President Peterson:

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of fifty affordable housing community development corporations (CDCs) committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner.

We are working towards a day when every Oregonian has a safe and healthy place to call home.

The proposed homelessness and housing services measure moves us towards that goal. We encourage you to refer the measure to the May 2020 ballot.

Housing Oregon is a member of the HereTogether Coalition and supports the goal of creating a dedicated source of funding for homeless services and housing stability. Having a safe, affordable home is the cornerstone on which all other success is built, and the stable foundation all members of our community need to thrive.

It is important that this measure leads with a racial equity lens recognizing communities of color have been directly impacted by a long list of systemic inequities and discriminatory policies that have caused higher rates of housing instability and homelessness among people of color. Communities of color are disproportionately represented in the housing affordability and homelessness crisis.

The proposed measure offers an opportunity to maximize our region's new investments in affordable housing construction and development by securing highly flexible funding to invest in

proven, outcome-driven, client-centered solutions like case management, job training, addiction and recovery services, mental health support, rent assistance (both long and short term), homelessness prevention services, housing placement, and other tools people need to be successful.

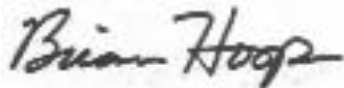
We support initially prioritizing funds to focus on those experiencing chronic homelessness, as well as those most at risk of losing their homes and entering chronic or long-term homelessness. It is important to keep strategies client-centered with a focus on equity. As these populations' needs are addressed and stabilized, we support reprioritizing funds to support other populations affected by our housing affordability crisis from becoming homeless.

The Portland Metro region is facing a severe housing affordability and homelessness crisis, which endangers the health and safety of thousands of our unhoused neighbors. Homelessness is a deeply traumatic and dehumanizing experience that no person should have to endure regardless of their circumstances. The crisis especially affects seniors, children, people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, women, persons with disabilities, youth exiting foster care, people with criminal records, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied homeless youth, and people living with certain chronic health conditions, who are disproportionately represented in our homeless population and most at risk of chronic homelessness.

We are seeking funds that will take the recently approved Metro bond investments in affordable housing to the next level. Housing Oregon's members are part of numerous strong networks of community members, nonprofit agencies, government bureaus, and faith communities working together to find creative solutions that support our neighbors experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty.

We are ready to work with Metro in helping pass and hopefully implement this measure. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Hoop". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Hoop  
Director, Housing Oregon