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March 2, 2021

Public Testimony  
Oregon House of Representatives  
Committee on Housing

HB 2100

Chair Fahey and Committee Members,

My name is Trell Anderson, and I am the Executive Director of Northwest Housing Alternatives. As a nonprofit, mission and community-based organization, we offer nearly 2,000 affordable rental homes across 16 counties in Oregon to seniors, families, Veterans, and people with disabilities.

We have over 800 additional affordable rental homes in development in communities such as Tigard, Portland, Florence, and Ontario.

Additionally, we are a homeless services provider in Clackamas County, operating the Annie Ross House family shelter, and supportive case management to support families' transition from being homeless to permanent housing. Since 1982, the Annie Ross shelter remains the only full-family, year-round shelter in Clackamas County. As a nonprofit service provider, we work closely with the Community Action Agency in Clackamas County, as well as other members of the Continuum of Care for homeless services.

My testimony is in support of HB 2100 in principle because racial equity is important! None of us, no one system or community provider, can do it alone. We need system change to address long time and deeply rooted racial inequities we see document in homelessness and housing outcomes.

I'm not advocating to completely upend, undo, or undermine the meaningful and significant work of Community Action Agencies. I am thankful for the work of my peers and colleagues across the state leading Community Action Agencies in local communities fighting against poverty and supporting people impacted by it.

And across the state, racial inequities persist. Without serious consideration and system change, racial disparities in homelessness and housing outcomes will not change.

I am supportive of the principles of HB 2100 to address racial inequities. We need to address this in all sectors, and it will take leadership like yours and other elected officials to make a difference. Please do not miss this opportunity to make a difference in racial equity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trell Anderson".