CENTRAL OFFICE 125 N. 17th St. St. Helens, Oregon 97051 Voice (503) 397-3511 Fax (503) 397-3290 Administration Information & Referral Ext. 2001

FISCAL OFFICE 1775 St. Helens St. St. Helens, Oregon 97051 Voice (503) 366-6570 (503) 366-6565 (503) 366-6569 Fax (503) 366-7906

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS 125 N. 17th St. St. Helens, Oregon 97051 (503) 397-3511 Ext. 2013 Housing Development Community Facilities

HOUSING CENTER (503) 325-8098 (800) 325-8098 Housing Information & Referral Homeowner & Tenant Trainings Home Ownership Assistance

SELF-HELP HOUSING Acquisition Rehabilitation Sweat Equity (503) 366-6550 (503) 366-6544

HOUSING REHABILITATION Rehabilitation Weatherization

Astoria (503) 325-8098 (800) 325-8098 Columbia (503) 366-6562

EMERGENCY HOUSING PROGRAM 125 N. 17th St. St. Helens, Oregon 97051 (503) 366-6559 (800) 404-3511

CHILD & FAMILY

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PO Box 10, 108 W. B. St. Rainier, Oregon 97048 (503) 556-3736 Head Start Healthy Families

ENERGY SERVICES PROGRAM

125 N. 17th St. St. Helens, Oregon 97051 (503) 397-3511 Energy Utility Assistance Consumer Education Tillamook (503) 842-3267 (866) 722-4951 Astoria (866) 722-4951

SENIOR, RESPITE & VETERANS SERVICE PROGRAMS

125 N. 17th St. St. Helens, Oregon 97051 (503) 366-6584 Respite Care, OPI Senior Support & Nutrition Programs

Veterans Service Program 125 N. 17th St. St. Helens, Oregon 97051 (503) 366-6580

DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM 125 N. 17th St. St. Helens, Oregon 97051 (503) 366-6563

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM, INC.

"BUILDING BRIDGES TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY"



March 3, 2021

Chair Holvey, Vice-Chair Bonham, Vice-Chair Grayber, and members of the Committee:

My name is Daniel Brown; I serve as the Executive Director of Community Action Team, Inc. (CAT). CAT is the Community Action Agency serving the tricounty area of Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook counties. Along with the many other programs we offer to support low-income Oregonians, we also assist first time homebuyers, current homeowners, and renters. Our current services include Home Buyer Education, Financial Coaching, Foreclosure Prevention Counseling, Mortgage Payment Assistance, and Loan Preservation Assistance.

I am writing to encourage you to pass HB 2009 in order to extend the foreclosure moratorium. Homeowners impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic need stability at this time. Any further negative impact imposed on families who are already bearing the brunt of the effects of this pandemic is unconscionable.

Without HB 2009, lenders will be able to proceed with foreclosure without offering homeowners mediation through the Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance Program (OFA). As to the scope of this problem, please keep in mind that 30% of homeowners in Oregon have a mortgage that is not eligible for the federal protections. Passage if this bill would require lenders to move the COVID-19 related arrearages to the end of the loan, allowing homeowners to move forward with their lives without the fear of foreclosure from those missed (forbearance) payments.

It is paramount, especially in the midst of the current crisis, that families have a safe and stable place to call home. We thank you for your consideration and thoughtful approach to the current plight of Oregon homeowners.

Sincerely,

Brown

Daniel Brown Executive Director

Serving Columbia, Clatsop, and Tillamook Counties since 1966