

Dear House Housing Committee:

Thank you for all the work you are doing to help Oregonians make it through this pandemic and move into the future. As a non-profit affordable housing developer landlord, I can see how much our residents are struggling to pay rent and provide for themselves and their families. We have been working hard to keep our residents housed and we are grateful for the assistance that we have received from the state to help.

I have been an executive director at Community Partners for Affordable Housing for just over five years. During that time I have had an opportunity to apply for funding to build affordable housing and to see it come together. It is truly an amazing experience, to work with community partners, funders, contractors to make something out of so many disparate pieces.

But it takes years to move from project idea to units on the ground for real people. Which is why we need to think deeply about those affordable housing communities that are beginning to time out of their affordability regulations. We should be doing everything possible not to lose units, and short of that, we should be doing everything we can to support residents who will need to move, because an unwanted move from housing is a huge loss and traumatic experience and can lead to homelessness. HB 2095 will require that residents of affordable housing, who for all essential purposes could lose their housing, will at least receive timely notice that this change may take place.

Again, thank you for your leadership and the work you do.
Warmly—

Rachael Duke, Executive Director
Community Partners for Affordable Housing