



March 25, 2021

House Committee on Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Reschke, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you on behalf of Home Forward, a Public Housing Authority (PHA) and largest provider of affordable housing in the state of Oregon. Home Forward serves more than 17,500 households earning low-incomes in Multnomah County by developing and providing affordable housing, providing supportive services, and administering short and long term rent assistance. The mission of Home Forward is to assure that the people of the community are sheltered.

Home Forward strongly supports House Bill 2584A with the dash A3 amendments. This bill supports the development, construction, and rehabilitation of affordable housing. Home Forward has used the Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit (OAHTC) to develop affordable housing and we support increasing the overall limit to expand the resource which will produce more affordable homes throughout the State.

Home Forward also supports the adoption of the dash A3 amendment which will allow Public Housing Authorities to issue bonds for the Oregon Affordable Housing Tax Credit. Oregon Housing and Community Services will retain the authority to allocate the tax credit, but the change will allow Public Housing Authorities to issue bonds for credits the agency has awarded. As a result of the volume of affordable housing development happening in the State, there is a large pipeline of bonds that need to be issued. Any delay in issuing of bonds can delay the timeline of a specific development which may put other public funds committed to the project at risk. Allowing Public Housing Authorities to issue bonds for the OAHTC will support expedient delivery of this resource and affordable housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment in support of HB2584 (-A3 amendments) today. Please contact Taylor Smiley Wolfe, Director of Policy and Planning, Home Forward at 503-957-8760 or taylor.smileywolfe@homeforward.org regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Taylor Smiley Wolfe
Director of Policy and Planning
Home Forward