

Dear representatives,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is Edward Knightly. I am a disabled gentleman who is a resident of affordable housing in Portland, Oregon. And I serve on the board of directors of Reach CDC. An affordable housing not for profit. I am writing to advocate for affordable housing. I also write you as a living example that affordable housing does work. Because I had a stroke! That left half of my body mostly paralyzed. Because of the opportunity and stability of affordable housing. I can testify today as a contributing member of society. Rather than being unsheltered on the streets of Portland. So affordable housing does work!

Support is needed for the entire housing spectrum. From supportive housing, to affordable rental housing, and affordable home ownership. People cannot be housed. Without opportunities to be housed within their income. And many baby boomers are retiring on a fixed Social Security income. An income that can not afford Portland's market rate rent.

More affordable housing opportunities are definitely needed in Portland. One effective strategy to maintain affordable housing opportunities, that is often overlooked. Is the preservation of existing affordable housing. One example is Rose apartments. A 100 year old building that Reach CDC has remodeled and reinforced for sustainable affordable housing. A historic building that could of been lost. A building that now houses many low income people in Portland. Who are relatively vulnerable.

As a disabled gentleman living on a fixed low Social Security income. I communicate to you that assistance is needed and appreciated.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Edward Knightly

Thank you very much