

March 1, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Rose Ojeda, CASA of Oregon

RE: SB 937 Grants to support first time home buyers

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson and members of the committee,

My name is Rose Ojeda and I am the Director of Manufactured Housing and Cooperative Development Center of CASA of Oregon. CASA has been working with local communities to create housing, facilities and asset building opportunities for 35 years. We provide homeownership opportunities through resident owned manufactured home communities (ROCs). We provide down payment assistance through Individual Development Accounts and we also are a developer of affordable rental housing

SB 937 would provide grant funding to Community Development Financial Institutions so they could in turn provide low-interest loans to first time home buyers. It is often the lack of affordable financing that prevents families from being able to afford home ownership.

In our ROCs, many of the homes are dilapidated and need to be replaced. We are also developing new ROCS and affordable financing will be crucial for us to serve folks with limited assets and incomes.

This program would pair nicely with the new federal Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE). This \$225 million program is designed to preserve and revitalize manufactured housing. The funds will be distributed over five years as competitive grants to states, local governments, resident-owned manufactured housing communities, cooperatives, nonprofits, community development financial institutions, Tribes, and other entities designated by HUD. This program requires a 50% match so this proposed legislation would incentivize the state's ability to attract federal funding.

CASA of Oregon and Network for Oregon Affordable Housing are two non-profit CDFI's that the state has already invested in to help preserve manufactured home communities. With this legislation and other proposed legislation like HB 2983 and HB 3151, we can continue to preserve manufactured home communities AND construct new communities.

We urge your support of this HB 937. Thank you.