



March 7, 2023

Representative Maxine Dexter
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, H-283
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 3215

Dear Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges your support of House Bill 3215, which enables Oregon Housing and Community Services to more effectively provide for the long-term housing needs that result from disasters, wherever they may occur across the state.

OHCS has assessed its own work in providing disaster-recovery housing in response to the 2020 wildfires, and has put forward this common-sense proposal to establish structure and clear authority for OHCS' role – vis a vis the role played by the Department of Emergency Management – if and when disasters occur. In addition to the ongoing threat of fires, history and science tell us that other types of disasters are likely to strike in the coming decades – such as tsunamis, floods and major earthquakes. This bill supports OHCS in being prepared to quickly and effectively support the development of housing as part of a coordinated recovery effort following such disasters in the future.

The Housing Alliance is a coalition of over 100 organizations, which include local jurisdictions, grassroots community groups, tenant advocates, housing authorities, and housing developers and providers from across the state. From these various positions within Oregon's affordable housing landscape, our members have endorsed HB 3215. We call on you to join us in supporting this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Herrington", written in a cursive style.

Cameron Herrington
Director of Policy and Advocacy
cherrington@neighborhoodpartnerships.org