



May 1st, 2023

Re: Support for HB 3462 - Emergency Housing For All

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Dick Anderson, and members of the committee:

Housing is a human right, we are in a housing crisis, and people in power must act accordingly. In solidarity with frontline communities, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon strongly urges you to support House Bill 3463, which ensures that Oregonians who are displaced by climate disasters can access emergency housing resources faster, more effectively, and without discrimination.

OPAL's mission is to activate, organize, and amplify the voices of people to build power for environmental justice where they live. Core to that mission is the belief that everyone, especially those disproportionately burdened by the legacy of climate injustice, has a right to a safe, affordable, and healthy home. Around the world and across the country climates disasters are worsening, increasingly displacing people from their homes and communities. Here in Oregon, the impacts of more frequent extreme weather events, wildfires, and floods, elevates the urgent need to invest in the resiliency of local communities across the state.

Oregonians need House Bill 3463 because it ensures emergency housing resources are immediately accessible, meet fair housing standards, and serve the needs of those unable to access Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) resources. A community survey conducted by Unite Oregon in 2021 found 40% of our communities displaced by wildfires were failed by our government, unable to access the help they deserved. Worse yet, 70% of those that did qualify for assistance had to wait 3 months to a year to get temporary housing, with many sharing that they did not feel safe while in temporary housing.

House Bill 3463 is our opportunity to support Oregonians impacted by climate disasters, close a critical gap in our emergency response systems, and invest in the resilience of communities in every corner of the state.

In solidarity,

Josh Laurente
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OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon