



HOUSING SENIORS | CREATING HOPE | PILOTING CHANGE

May 2, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

RE: **Support for HB 3462**

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony, on behalf of Northwest Pilot Project, in strong support of HB 3462 – the Emergency Housing for All Act. This bill will ensure equitable access to emergency housing in the wake of a natural disaster by requiring that:

- All emergency housing meets fair housing requirements.
- Housing resources are immediately accessible.
- Resources are available for those who do not qualify for Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) assistance.

Northwest Pilot Project (NWPP) is a social service agency with over five decades of experience in providing housing stabilization services to low and very low-income older adults, age 55 and over, experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Multnomah County. While we focus on older adults, we believe that every Oregonian – especially our vulnerable community members displaced by natural disasters – deserves a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

Many survivors of the 2020 wildfires in Oregon were ineligible for assistance due to immigration status requirements or were unable to access assistance due to language barriers. A community survey conducted by Unite Oregon in 2021 found that 40% of community members displaced by wildfires were unable to access government support. Seventy percent of those that did qualify for assistance had to wait three months to a year to get temporary housing. Many of those placed in temporary housing shared that they did not feel safe there.

We strongly encourage your support of HB 3462 because this bill will help ensure **all displaced individuals** impacted by natural disasters can access emergency housing resources faster, more effectively, and without discrimination.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

Laura Golino de Lovato
Executive Director
Northwest Pilot Project