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**Testimony in Support of House Bill 3235
House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
February 12, 2025**

Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair Andersen and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness, my name is Kevin Christiansen and I am the government affairs director for the Oregon Bankers Association (“OBA”) and Community Banks of Oregon (“CBO”). Our organizations represent the diverse FDIC insured banks and trust companies doing business in Oregon. The banking industry employs over 20,000 Oregonians at approximately 800 locations throughout our state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 3235.

House Bill 3235 calls for a \$10 million appropriation through Oregon Housing and Community Services (“OHCS”) to the Network for Oregon Affordable Housing (“NOAH”) – an organization established with the help of the Oregon Bankers Association in 1990 as a statewide nonprofit corporation to increase the supply of affordable housing – to increase the size of the new Amplify Oregon Accelerated Mortgage Fund to expand funding availability to first time homebuyers.

Amplify, which was created in 2024 by House Bill 3395, was capitalized with \$7.5 million. Banks partnered with NOAH to provide an additional matching sum of \$7.5 million for a total of \$15 million.

We understand the initial infusion of funds will be quickly utilized given the high demand for affordable housing. The additional appropriation of \$10 million will be helpful in continuing the work of Amplify. We also anticipate, as was the case in 2024, that an additional \$10 million will likely come with matching fund requirement.

OBA encourages you to support House Bill 3235. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (503) 576-4123 or our lobbyist John Powell at (503) 510-8758.

Thank you.