



3 March 2025

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon Legislature

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

RE: Senate Bill 31, 32, and 973

My name is Jimmy Jones, and I am the Executive Director of the **Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency** in Salem. We serve low-income residents of Marion, Polk, and nine other counties across Oregon. Annually we provide more than \$80 million in services and direct client assistance for housing, homelessness, energy and weatherization, and early learning programs to more than 60,000 Oregonians in poverty. I also serve as the Vice President for Legislative Affairs at the Community Action Partnership of Oregon, sit on the Housing Committee of the Racial Justice Council, and previously was a member of the House Bill 2100 Task Force on Homelessness and Racial Disparities, and recently Chaired the Legislature's Joint Task Force on Hospital Discharge. For many years, I have been an advocate for the homeless and housing unstable residents of our state.

We write in support of **Senate Bill 31, Senate Bill 32, and Senate Bill 973**, which collectively address critical preservation needs facing low-income Oregonians in the years ahead. We have hundreds and eventually thousands of Oregon households living in affordable housing that will, one day, age out of affordability. The state's policy should embrace bond measures that allow nonprofits and public housing authorities to acquire some of that currently existing affordable stock, and preserve the affordability permanently. In the interim, building a safety net for families who might be forced to compete for other affordable housing suddenly, or perhaps even market-based housing, is critical to protecting our vulnerable low-income community and limiting the future growth of the homeless crisis. **Senate Bill 31** would create a tenant mitigation fund that would allow Oregon Housing and Community Services to award barrier relief funds to housing authorities, community action agencies, or other community-based organizations, to help those families transition out of affordable housing that was itself transitioning to a market-based model. **Senate Bill 32** makes critical data improvements in our system, so that we can better understand (and plan for) any disruptions in currently existing affordable housing stock. And **Senate Bill 973** creates greater transparency for new tenants moving into affordable housing units, so that they can adequately plan for their housing future when an affordability period ends. Collectively, these bills are significant process, policy, and resource improvements over the status quo.

We urge the Committee to support SB 31, 32, and 973, and work toward their swift passage. The well-being and future of our fellow Oregonians depend on it.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Jones
Executive Director