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February 3, 2026

To: House Committee on Revenue

Re: Testimony in support of HB4125

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters, and Members of the Committee,

Northwest Housing Alternatives (NHA) is a 40-year-old nonprofit, mission-oriented, community-based housing developer and homeless service provider. We submit this testimony in support of HB 4125 on behalf of the thousands of Oregonians who live in NHA housing developments or participate in NHA homeless intervention services.

Oregon's budgeting process currently relies entirely on a single revenue estimate to set expectations and program limits for each biennium. It asks the state economist to carry out a near-impossible task: to predict the global, national, and state economy over the course of a two-year period and then translate that into a precise revenue estimate. Unpredictable or unanticipated changes like a global pandemic, sudden growth in home values, historic inflation, or any number of other potential factors can result in significant discrepancies between predicted and real economic outcomes - we've seen this in every biennial forecast over the past decade. As a result, general fund programs such as housing stabilization services suffer unpredictable funding from biennium to biennium, which in turn creates uncertain service availability for Oregonians in need.

Professional forecasts normally provide a range of potential outcomes to buffer against this uncertainty. Indeed, the state economist already provides lawmakers with several potential scenarios in their Quarterly Economic and Revenue Forecasts. Yet Oregon budgeting requires a single figure for setting the general fund budget. By requiring an additional estimate to be considered in state budgeting, HB 4125 provides an excellent way to improve Oregon's budgeting process while recognizing the constitutional demands of balancing a budget. We urge you to support HB 4125 and deliver greater predictability and stability to Oregon's budget process.

Thank you for your dedication and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Trell Anderson, Executive Director