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Chair Alissa Keny-Guyer and Members
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer,

Just a short note to endorse the passage of HB 2130 in order to maintain momentum at the local government level to provide tax exemptions in support of affordable housing development.

The Community Housing Fund is a non-profit trust fund engaged in lending to non-profit community development corporations in Washington County. We provide critical early money at substantially reduced rates as a catalyst to take projects from the concept stage to reality.

As you know, reducing the costs of development is a key element in achieving lower rent levels and increased opportunity for working families with low incomes. One way to keep those costs down is to grant a property tax exemption for housing specifically focused on low-income residents.

In Washington County over the past few years, there has been a concerted effort to enlist local governments in a coordinated approach to granting the kind of exemption described in the Bill. A year or so ago, Beaverton adopted a policy but established a two-year sunset because they felt constrained to add any conditions on their approval. This Bill is the response to that concern.

We need thousands of additional units for working families, seniors, and those with disabilities in Washington County. We also need tools such as property tax exemption to keep

development costs down. Passage of HB 2130 is apparently necessary to maintain the existing commitment made by the City of Beaverton, and the future of new projects in the pipeline depends in no small way on the predictability of this exemption.

Please help us promote the viability of future affordable housing development in Beaverton by seriously considering HB 2130.

Thank you all for the significant work you have already done this session for those of us in the affordable housing world.

Best,


Ramsay Weit
Executive Director