



March 23, 2017

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the Human Services and Housing Committee:

I write on behalf of Oregon Opportunity Network to urge your support for HB 3175, a technical fix which will enable the LIFT housing bond program to be used for affordable homeownership.

As you know, the LIFT bond program launched this past year with an initial, historic investment of \$40 million in general obligation bonds. The first round of funding was fully subscribed and a dozen outstanding affordable housing [projects](#) are now underway in communities around the state.

Based on this initial success, and knowing that the statewide shortfall of affordable housing continues unabated, we are seeking \$100 million in LIFT bonds this session.

The original legislative intent of the LIFT program was that it would include not just affordable rental apartment development, but also affordable homeownership. We are asking that \$20 million of the \$100 million in new LIFT bonds be set aside for homeownership.

We know that using the flexible LIFT bond funding, nonprofits in communities around the state can move quickly to build hundreds of affordable homes for qualified families of modest means. However, we need a technical fix to ensure that the LIFT program can be used to serve first-time homeowners. HB 3175 provides this crucial technical fix, and we urge your support. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Jerome Brooks
Executive Director

Oregon ON member organizations

Statewide

CASA of Oregon
Cascadia Behavioral
Healthcare
Catholic Charities
Enterprise Community
Partners
Habitat for Humanity of
Oregon
Housing Development
Center
NOAH (Network for
Oregon Affordable
Housing)
Northwest Housing
Alternatives
Rural Community
Assistance Corporation

Central & Eastern Oregon

Columbia Cascade
Housing
Community Connection
of NE Oregon
Housing Works
NeighborImpact
UGMW Nonprofit
Development
Corporation

Coastal

Northwest Coastal
Housing
Community Action
Team, Inc.

Southern Oregon

ACCESS
Housing Authority of
Jackson County
NeighborWorks Umpqua

Willamette Valley

Catholic Community
Services Foundation
Community Home
Builders
Cornerstone Community
Housing
Farmworker Housing
Development
Corporation
Housing and Community
Services of Lane County
(HACSA)
Integrated Supports for
Living, Inc.
NEDCO
Polk CDC
St Vincent de Paul of
Lane County

Willamette
Neighborhood Housing
Services

Portland Metro

Bienestar
BRIDGE Housing
Central City Concern
Community Housing
Fund
CPAH
Habitat for Humanity
Portland/Metro East
Hacienda CDC
Home Forward
Housing Authority of
Clackamas County
Housing Authority of
Washington County
Human Solutions, Inc.
Innovative Housing, Inc.
NAYA Family Center
PCRI
Portland Housing Center
Proud Ground
REACH Community
Development
ROSE Community
Development
Sabin CDC

...Plus over 100 businesses, government agencies, community organizations and individuals across Oregon who support our mission.