



Eugene School District 4J
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December 21, 2009

Representative Phillip Barnhart
Oregon House of Representatives, District 11
PO Box 71188 Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Representative Barnhart,

RE: ORS 307.515, Low Income Housing Tax Exemption

Eugene School District 4J's Board of Directors strongly supports the creation of housing that is affordable to low-income households. We support the renewal of ORS 307.515 that would allow local jurisdictions to continue to offer a property tax exemption for affordable housing developments.

The Eugene School District has a long record of supporting the development of affordable housing. For the past 20 years, the district has agreed to the use of property tax exemptions for affordable housing projects in our community. In addition, we have sold surplus property to the City of Eugene so that former school sites can be used for future low-income housing.

We recognize that it takes a complex series of subsidies to create affordable housing in communities such as Eugene. We believe that the property tax exemption is an important tool for local communities and we wish to go on record as supporting the renewal of state statute that would enable local jurisdictions to determine whether to use this tool.

In communities such as Eugene where housing costs are high, the development of affordable housing is especially important for students from low-income families. We urge you to support the renewal of low-income housing tax exemptions, such as the one in ORS 307.515 – 307.523.

Sincerely,

Craig Smith
Chair

Eugene School District Board of Directors