Senator Courtney:

We are pleased to see this bill moving forward without the -22 amendment. As someone who has worked in affordable housing finance and development for over 20 years, I am deeply committed to seeing the private market deliver solutions first. The amount of subsidy we have for regulated housing is severely limited (compared to need), and we are in constant conversations with private landlords and builders to better understand where and when we can collaborate, and how we can each be as efficient and effective as possible. HB 2001A reflects these conversations—and a vision of the future that provides many more opportunities for homes that families young and old can afford in a wider variety of neighborhoods.

At the Community Housing Fund, we help seed new rental and homeownership opportunities for hundreds of families every year. We work with staff and elected leaders in our county and the 12 cities within it, as well as with business partners through a variety of chamber and other associations. We have heard nothing but excitement for missing middle housing—and a strong desire to see more of it added to meet the needs of diverse and growing communities. This bill will help ensure that these jurisdictions can meet Goal 10 requirements around adequate supply and diversity of housing options. It allows us to see history repeat itself as communities return to charming cottage cluster style development with smaller homes, at times shared amenities, near transit, schools, parks and other valuable (and costly) infrastructure.

Especially since the Great Recession, we have seen the housing crisis deepen to levels that require greater diligence, cooperation and creativity between public and private partners, and communities throughout the state of Oregon than ever before.

HB2001A is the end result of many conversations to help create the change and opportunities we so desperately need. It won't solve our housing crisis, but it is one piece of the puzzle. Everyone deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. Thank you for the efforts you and your colleagues are taking to help bring the puzzle pieces together to ensure more Oregonians have this important stabilizing foundation—a place to call home!

Sincerely,

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