



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1532 Senate Committee on Housing and Development

February 4, 2020

Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Heard and Members of the Committee

My name is Peter Hainley, and I am Executive Director of CASA of Oregon. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 1532.

CASA of Oregon's mission is deeply rooted in service to farmworkers and other low-income populations throughout Oregon. We seek to improve the lives of Oregonians by building affordable housing, neighborhood facilities, and programs that increase families' financial well-being. We are a nonprofit community development organization that works to support thriving communities by working with local nonprofits, housing authorities, and local government.

Since 2007, CASA has been helping residents of manufactured home communities (MHCs) collectively purchase and operate their communities. The residents form a cooperative where each member owns their home individually and the land and infrastructure collectively. Currently there are 14 resident owned communities in Oregon. We receive weekly requests from park residents to convert their park to resident ownership. These parks are located throughout the State (Gold Beach, Warrenton, Boardman, Gladstone, Bend, Roseburg, and elsewhere) and range in size from 25 spaces to 142 spaces. Through this resident ownership model, low income Oregonians are able to keep their housing costs permanently affordable. It was through this conversion process, that we learned that many of the homes in these cooperatives, are in serious disrepair.

When the need to repair or replace homes within the cooperatives became apparent, CASA began collaborating with other nonprofit organizations to determine a way to systematically place or replace homes within these parks. There are many layers to replacing a home and in order to fully understand what that process is, CASA, through a grant from Meyer Memorial Trust created the Manufactured Home Placement and Replacement Program (PRP) Pilot. The PRP pilot explores ways to assist Oregonians to overcome the barriers encountered when purchasing a new manufactured home or replacing their current unsafe home with a new, energy-efficient model. However, replacement might not be feasible or desirable for some residents. They may instead choose to make much needed repairs. As with replacement, the costs of repairs often proves a significant hurdle to healthy housing. CASA of Oregon supports SB 1532 because it will help Oregonians remove that hurdle and have a safe place to call home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB 1532.