



Proud Ground
Diane Linn, Executive Director
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March 29, 2021

Joint Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Committee

As the Executive Director of Proud Ground, I am writing in support of the House Bill 2009 on behalf of the Proud Ground staff, board and members, I want to express our strong support of HB 5011, and the recommended budget for the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department for the 2021-2023 biennium.

Proud Ground is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that does serves families in Multnomah County, Washington County, Clackamas, Lincoln and Clark County. Proud Ground creates permanently affordable homeownership opportunities for first-time homebuyers through homebuyer education and counseling, housing development, and asset management. Using the Community Land Trust (CLT) model, Proud Ground has ensured that more than 365 homes remain permanently affordable in the portfolio, and that more than 550 families around the Greater Portland Metro region and Lincoln County receive the stability of homeownership.

A safe and stable place to call home is a basic human need. Homeownership provides “game changing” stability

As you know, the State of Oregon has been hit hard by a number of crises in 2020. The ongoing pandemic and summer wildfires have devastated communities across the state and thrown families into economic distress. Prior to 2020, Oregon was already experiencing a housing crisis, and too many of our neighbors and community members were experiencing housing instability. In times of crisis like the ones that we experienced last year, and the one we are continuing to experience, a strong response to aid those who are most impacted is critical.

Dreams Start Here.

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Throughout the years, Proud Ground has worked with OHCS to implement and administer various programs including Downpayment Assistance grants and LIFT bonds for development. We participated in the development of the OHCS's Strategic Planning process that identifies homeownership as a critical part of the housing continuum. OHCS's programs have allowed us to fill the gap between what a family can afford and how much a home costs to buy or build. The LIFT program requires permanent affordability so homes developed will remain affordable forever and providing wealth creation and stability for families at the same time.

We strongly support the passage of HB 5011 so that organizations like ours can continue to partner with OHCS and work to serve the people of Oregon.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane M Linn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Diane Linn, Executive Director
Proud Ground