



Columbia Cascade Housing Corp.

April 14th, 2021

Oregon Legislature
Senate Committee on Housing and Development

[Submitted via OLIS]

RE: Support of HB 2009

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Linthicum, Members of the Committee,

I am writing you today to voice our organization's support for HB 2009. Columbia Cascade Housing Corporation (CCHC) promotes and administers affordable housing solutions in Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties in Oregon. More specifically we're actively working to develop more affordable housing communities - for rent and for sale options – and work with current and future homeowners to access and maintain their homeownership goals.

We carryout our work with current and future homeowners through a variety of programs and activities, one of which includes counseling current homeowners who may be facing foreclosure. Recognizing that foreclosure has devastating impacts on families and communities, and due to COVID-19, many more homeowners will need the support of foreclosure counselors in the months and years to come.

HB 2009 would temporarily prevent the filing of foreclosures by lenders and provide forbearance to allow homeowners to move missed payments to the end of their loan period. Homeowners who have lost work due to the pandemic will not be able to pay several months of mortgage payments at once, and moving the payments to the end of the loan period, including interest, means that banks and lenders will still receive payment, and homeowners will not lose their homes.

HB 2009 would provide protection to those homeowners who are at risk of foreclosure yet lack federal protections. One third of our clients do not have federally backed mortgages. It is important to note that under the prior moratorium three of our clients were able to avoid foreclosure. We encourage you to act urgently to pass HB 2009 to extend the foreclosure moratorium and provide stability for homeowners who have been impacted due to the pandemic.

We ask that you act urgently to extend the foreclosure moratorium, and to provide stability for homeowners. During this pandemic, it is so critical to have a safe and stable place to call home.

Respectfully,

Joel Madsen
Executive Director

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