



**Claire Hall
County Commissioner**

Courthouse, Room 110
225 W. Olive Street
Newport, Oregon 97365
(541) 265-4100
FAX (541) 265-4176

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

900 Court St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Chair Burdick, Vice Chair Boquist, Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Claire Hall, I live in Newport. I am a Lincoln County Commissioner and Chair the Oregon Housing Stability Council. Creating affordable housing for hardworking Oregon families has been one of my greatest priorities and passions during my time in office.

Since I entered into office in 2005, local employers have continually told me that a lack of housing is their single greatest barrier to attracting and retaining workers. Stable housing is essential to the health of families, and to the success of children in schools.

SB 852 provides an opportunity for the state to partner in the creation of desperately needed housing in all corners of our state by redirecting some of the revenue we're now allocating to the Mortgage Interest Deduction to families who truly need a hand up.

Affordable family housing is something I've been discussing with the director of our two local hospitals for some time. She usually said everyone from cleaners to nurses struggled to find housing. Just recently she added a surgeon to that list; a prominent young candidate who came in with a crushing educational debt that required creative restructuring of their proposed employment contract in order for him to be able to afford a home here.

This crisis impacts urban, rural and frontier communities. I encourage you to support an effective solution—SB 852.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Claire Hall