



February 7, 2023

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support of HB 2889

Dear Chair Dexter, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Helfrich, Representatives Cate, Fahey, Harman, Helm, Javadi, Levy and Wright:

I write to you on behalf of Home Forward in strong support of House Bill 2889, the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis (OHNA). This bill is a much-needed overhaul of the way the state and cities plan for and ensure housing production, so that every Oregonian, regardless of their income, has the opportunity for an affordable housing choice.

Home Forward is a Public Housing Authority (PHA) and the largest provider of affordable housing in the state of Oregon. We serve more than 15,500 Multnomah County low-income households by providing affordable housing, administering rent assistance, and providing supportive services. Our mission is to assure that the people of the community are sheltered. We own and manage over 6,000 homes throughout Multnomah County. We also provide households with services which range from housing stability to health and wellness. Meanwhile, we fund rent assistance for thousands of households residing in private unregulated housing that we do not directly oversee. We administer emergency rent assistance programs that benefit landlords and tenants alike, including Short Term Rent Assistance, the Landlord Compensation Fund, and the Landlord Guarantee Fund.

Our current housing and homelessness crisis demonstrates that Goal 10, our statewide land use planning goal addressing housing, has not been adequately implemented at the local level nor has it been sufficiently funded or enforced on a state level. We have systemic inconsistency between local zoning and development practices and our state's current housing needs. Now is the time for reform.


OHNA provides a much need roadmap out of our current housing crisis by assessing what housing is needed and creating meaningful strategies to close the gap between our existing housing stock and the housing needed by our communities.

OHNA focuses on housing production by pairing zoning reform with planning and investments to support production as well as monitoring progress towards production goals.

OHNA focuses on providing affordable and equitable housing choices for all through the creation of an equity indicator by OHCS and required reporting by jurisdictions on their efforts to address affordability, undue the impact of the systemic racism in our housing systems and provide greater accessibility.

For all these reasons, we strongly urge you to pass House Bill 2889. Thank you for the opportunity to offer support. Please contact me at christina.dirks@homeforward.org or (503) 348-1196 regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'C' followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Christina Dirks
Interim Director of Policy and Planning