



February 23, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

From: Lisa Rogers, CASA of Oregon

Re: SB601 Relating to sale of residential rental properties.

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson and members of the committee,

My name is Lisa Rogers. I am the deputy director of CASA of Oregon. CASA has been working with local communities to create housing, facilities and asset building opportunities in Oregon for 35 years.

We fully support SB601.

Since 2008 CASA, under the ROC USA Network and with the support of Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), has helped residents of 26 mobile home parks convert their parks to resident ownership. We believe these cooperatives to be one of the most equitable forms of affordable housing, as conversion to resident ownership not only preserves affordability it also allows for a democratic process to play out among the residents of the cooperative.

Residents of these cooperatives annually vote to approve their budget, set rents to cover their costs, elect new board members, and make any necessary adjustments to the rules they established when they first converted to cooperative ownership. This interaction gives residents control over their own housing options through a democratic process.

As we know, buying a home is incredibly expensive and thus homeownership opportunities are limited or nonexistent for low income families. By sharing some of the costs of owning, it allows low income families a glimmer of hope to attain the American dream. Expanding the cooperative law to include residents of multifamily buildings to form cooperatives and own their property will expand homeownership options for many low income families.

We strongly encourage you to approve SB 601.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

