



DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

February 24, 2023

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2506

Chair Dexter, Vice-Chair Gamba, Vice-Chair Helfrich and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen Saxe and I work for DevNW, an affordable housing development and counseling agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion and Clackamas Counties.

Our communities are facing a crisis at every level of housing, from shelter to permanent supportive housing to affordable rental to ownership. The lack of housing is most detrimental to the most vulnerable amongst us. We support the goal of HB 2506 to expand the definition of residential homes and residential facilities.

We know there is a gap in this type of housing, resulting in insufficient housing and supportive services across all of the communities we serve. We believe the expanded definition will support an increase in community-based housing that offers intensive services, a critical part of the housing continuum.

We believe that every Oregonian deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. We thank you for all of your work on behalf of our communities and urge your support of HB 2506.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KSaxe".

Karen Saxe
Director of Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Relationships