



March 9, 2023

*Sheila Stiley, Board  
chair – NW Coastal  
Housing*

*Kymerly Horner,  
Vice-chair - Portland  
Community  
Reinvestment Inc.*

*Rachael Duke,  
Secretary -  
Community Partners  
for Affordable  
Housing*

*Kristy Rodriguez,  
Treasurer - Housing  
Authority of Malheur  
& Harney Counties*

*Trell Anderson –  
Northwest Housing  
Alternatives*

*David Brandt -  
Housing Works*

*Wakan Alferes -  
Homes for Good*

*Rita Grady – Polk  
CDC*

*Maria Elena Guerra -  
Farmworker Housing  
Development Corp*

*Nkenge Harmon  
Johnson – Urban  
League of Portland*

*Brad Ketch –  
Rockwood CDC &  
Community Dev.  
Corp. of Oregon*

*Erica Mills –  
NeighborWorks  
Umpqua*

*Shannon Vilhauer –  
Habitat for Humanity  
Oregon*

Representative Maxine Dexter  
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
900 Court St NE, H-283  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Support for House Bill 3215**

Dear Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

Housing Oregon calls on you to support House Bill 3215, which enables Oregon Housing and Community Services to more effectively provide for the long-term housing needs that result from disasters, wherever they may occur across the state.

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of over 80 affordable housing community development corporations (CDCs) and ally organizations committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner. With our Rural Policy Council, we brought together our member organizations in counties affected by the 2020 Labor Day fires to work with OHCS on emergency response and recovery efforts.

HB 3215 is a common-sense proposal to establish structure and clear authority for OHCS' role in long-term recovery when disasters occur. In addition to the ongoing threat of fires such as the 2020 events that directly inspired this bill, history and science tell us that other types of disasters are likely to strike in the coming years – such as tsunamis, floods and major earthquakes. This bill supports OHCS in being prepared to quickly and effectively support the development of housing as part of a coordinated recovery effort following future disasters.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Brian Hoop  
Executive Director  
Housing Oregon

P.O. Box 8427, Portland, OR 97207