



Oregon Just Transition Alliance

March 21, 2023

To: Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and members of the committee

Re: House Bill 3462 – Emergency Housing For All

Thank you Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and members of the committee for the opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Joel Iboa, I live in Eugene, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance, a movement of communities facing environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation. I am here today in support of House Bill 3462. In Oregon, neighbors look out for each other. As we face more and more extreme weather, wildfires, and climate disasters, strengthening our neighborhoods will build a more resilient Oregon.

My uncle Lionso Solis was one of the many people who lost their home during the 2020 Labor day fires. He continued to work in the pear orchards of the Rogue Valley as the sky burned red. An immigrant Man without legal status in his 60s the combination of working in smoke, losing his home, and contracting COVID was too much. After months of fighting he perished.

We believe that no matter where we live or work, how much money we make, or our background, every Oregonian deserves a healthy, affordable, resilient home. As leaders and organizations representing frontline communities – Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color, low-income families, people with disabilities, and people in rural areas– we see our neighbors disproportionately impacted by the

climate crisis. We need accessible emergency housing as our communities bear the brunt of more extreme weather, wildfires and climate disasters.

A place to call home is essential especially before, during, and after an emergency. Home means a cool place during extreme heat, or warmth and safety during power outages from freezing weather.

This Session, we have an opportunity to help make communities in every corner of the state more resilient. House Bill 3462 ensures all emergency housing provided by various state agencies, is safe and maintains fair housing standards. People like my uncle did not qualify for FEMA resources, this bill would make sure others like him will. What we invest in today will build stronger communities tomorrow. And stronger communities will make the difference between surviving and thriving.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 3462 and I urge you to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Joel Iboa
Executive Director
Oregon Just Transition Alliance