



Portland Housing Bureau

February 13, 2025

Senator Khan Pham
Chair, Senate Committee of Housing and Development
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 949

Dear Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development

The Portland Housing Bureau supports SB 949, which directs the Housing and Community Services Department (OHCS) to establish a project to develop affordable housing that integrates residential units with community spaces and services in the Portland metropolitan area.

PHB supports this bill for the following reasons:

1. **OHCS will develop affordable, mixed use projects** that include community services and commercial spaces with a focus on housing vulnerable community members in North and Northeast Portland. This approach is aligned with Portland's North/Northeast Neighborhood Housing Strategy.
2. **OHCS will include wrap-around services in the projects** from local, community based organizations and promote employment opportunities within the community during and post-construction.
3. **OHCS will incorporate environmentally sustainable practices** during construction and promote community resilience by building projects with optimal energy efficiency. This is aligned with Portland's approach to new affordable housing construction and the voter approved Portland Clean Energy Fund initiative.
4. **OHCS will consult with neighborhood stakeholders** such as Self Enhancement, Inc. which has extensive knowledge and experience serving marginalized youth and families in North and Northeast Portland. Consulting organizations and community leaders with lived experience is a critical component to the success of this project.

PHB urges you to support SB 949.

Sincerely,

Helmi Hisserich, Director