



February 12, 2025

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: Peter Hainley, CASA of Oregon

Re: Support for HB 2958 Oregon's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Peter Hainley. I am the executive director of CASA of Oregon. Since 1988, CASA has been working with local communities to create housing for farmworkers, veterans and rural families. We have developed community facilities including HeadStart centers and medical and dental facilities. We also offer the largest asset-building program (Individual Development Accounts or IDAs) in the state helping more than 5000 people to buy a home, start or expand a business, gain post-secondary education and other asset classes. Finally, we help residents in manufactured home communities to purchase and own their communities as resident-owned co-ops (ROCs).

I ask you to join me in supporting House Bill 2958 to improve Oregon's EITC

The EITC is the largest anti-poverty program in the Oregon tax code, helping about 250,000 working families struggling to make ends meet. Together with its federal counterpart, Oregon's EITC helps lift tens of thousands of Oregonians out of poverty. The EITC does this by putting dollars in the pockets of families working for low wages. Currently, Oregon's EITC can be worth up to \$900.

Without legislative action this session, Oregon's EITC will sunset. HB 2958 not only renews Oregon's EITC but, importantly, makes much-needed improvements to strengthen it. HB 2958 more than doubles the match of the federal credit provided by the state, better helping working families meet the rising cost of living; it expands eligibility to all childless workers regardless of their age, better helping younger Oregonians entering the workforce and those working past 65 make ends meet; and makes technical improvements to allow the state to pay the EITC out in regular advance payments in the future.

In our work throughout the state, we see the importance of the EITC whether they are farmworkers earning minimum wages or older folks living in manufactured home parks. This is an important piece of the support system that Oregonian's depend upon.

CASA urges you to pass HB 2958. Thank you for your service to this great state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Hainley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Hainley
Executive Director