



March 3, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3503

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Salem Housing Authority to express our strong support for House Bill 3503, which seeks to provide funding to the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to assist in converting homes in Clackamas County, on behalf of the Clackamas County Housing Authority, into low-cost starter homes through a community land trust. This legislation will direct much-needed resources to Community LendingWorks, allowing them to offer grants to first-time homebuyers and promoting affordable housing opportunities.

We believe that this initiative will have a significant, positive impact in addressing the affordable housing crisis that many Oregonians are facing today. As we look into the disposition of our 79 scattered homes in Salem, we are particularly interested in exploring how this model, if implemented in our community, could align with our goals of providing sustainable, affordable housing options to first-time homebuyers.

We recognize the value of creating permanent affordable housing solutions and are eager to learn from the potential success of this program in Clackamas County. By supporting this bill, we hope to build a stronger partnership with our local community partners in Salem, working on a similar structure to those in place at DevNW and the Clackamas County Housing Authority. Their success in this program could enhance our chances of developing a similar model here in Salem. These programs not only improve the lives of individuals and families but also contribute to multi-generational success and stability.

We respectfully urge your support for HB 3503 and look forward to seeing the continued development of affordable housing opportunities across Oregon. Please feel free to reach out to us should you require any additional information or support in advocating for this important initiative.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Blakely

Director of Development
Salem Housing Authority