

Co Chairs Woods and Gomberg, members of the Transportation and Economic Development Sub-Committee,

My name is Lisa Rogers, I am the Deputy Director of Casa of Oregon and I am here today to speak in **strong support of HB 5011, the Oregon Housing and Community Services Budget.**

For almost 40 years, Casa of Oregon has worked to provide housing for some of Oregon's most vulnerable residents, including farm workers and low-income Oregonians living in manufactured housing parks.

We welcome the investments in housing made by the legislature in recent years to develop new housing stock to address Oregon's housing affordability and supply crisis.

However, building new housing can only be an effective solution if we also ensure that Oregon's existing stock of affordable housing is preserved.

HB 5011 includes \$25m for the preservation of manufactured housing parks. There are 1,382 manufactured housing parks in Oregon. They provide an affordable alternative to renting that enables residents – many of whom are elders in our community – to build equity in addition to having a roof over their heads.

Sadly, many of these parks are being sold. This can mean that they are no longer affordable or that they are converted to other uses altogether.

The \$25m in preservation funding will allow Casa, and other organizations like us, to buy manufactured housing parks when they come on the market and convert them into resident owned cooperatives.

Casa has successfully bought and converted 28 parks to resident owned cooperatives over the last 15 years and this funding will allow us to preserve 5-7 more.

This ensures that the investments already made by the legislature, as well as those for new homes contained in HB 5011 are as effective as possible by preventing the loss of existing affordable housing.

In addition to preserving manufactured housing, we also heavily support the \$3MM for Culturally Responsive Property Management, \$2.5 MM to replace existing dilapidated manufactured homes, and for the \$100MM in LIFT for Homeownership.

Once again we want to thank this legislature for the investments already made and urge you to pass HB5011 with its robust range of measures to tackle our state's housing crisis.