



DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

March 31, 2025

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for SB 829

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen Saxe and I work at DevNW, an affordable housing development and asset-building agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion, Polk and Clackamas Counties. We embark on comprehensive community development throughout our seven-county service area through services aimed at increasing financial stability for individuals and families as well as through economic and housing development.

As an affordable housing developer, we face escalating costs, from the development side through the ongoing operation of our properties. In the last month we have received notification of double-digit increases on materials for planned systems upgrades and indication that insurance premiums are slated to rise due to the impacts of wildfires and flooding throughout the West coast. We are not alone in this, agencies across Oregon are seeing similar or higher increases, worsening the impact on their housing portfolios.

We support SB 829, with the amendments, that would provide both an immediate support for current financial strain for projects across the state as well as long-term strategy and policy solutions to ensure stability. We know that affordable housing is critical to ensuring that Oregonians have access to safe and secure housing. The approach outlined in SB 829 will ensure that Oregon is taking both an immediate and systemic approach to support ongoing stability for affordable housing throughout Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KSaxe".

Karen Saxe
Director of Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Relationships

devNW.org



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