



Coos-Curry/North Bend City
Housing Authority

Linn Benton Housing Authority

Home Forward (Multnomah County)

Homes for Good (Lane County)

Housing Authority of Clackamas County

Housing Authority of Douglas County

Housing Authority of Jackson County

Housing Authority of Lincoln County

Housing Authority of Malheur County

Housing Authority of the County of Umatilla

Housing Authority of Washington County

Housing Authority of Yamhill County

Housing Works (Central Oregon)

Josephine Housing & Community
Development Council

Klamath County Housing Authority

Linn Benton Housing Authority

Marion County Housing Authority

Mid-Columbia Housing Authority

Northeast Oregon Housing Authority

Northwest Oregon Housing Authority

Salem Housing Authority

Vancouver Housing Authority

West Valley Housing Authority

February 2, 2022

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson and members of the Senate Housing and Development Committee:

The 22 Housing Authorities serving Oregon's 36 counties are the largest provider of affordable housing in our state. Collectively, through development and acquisition, housing authorities own and manage over 17,000 affordable rental homes. On any given night, more than 35,000 households have a place to sleep because of the Housing Choice Voucher program administered by Housing Authorities. Through our work, every year more than a quarter of a billion dollars in federal rent assistance are infused into Oregon's private rental market.

The Housing Authorities of Oregon express our support for SB 1557. The tenants in the properties specified need housing stability and the plan outlined in SB 1557 will provide it.

As the state takes a long-term look at this issue, we encourage additional policy changes to prevent similar situations from occurring in the future, changes that are outside of the scope of this legislation.

Each year affordable housing providers compete for limited resources to develop sorely needed affordable housing in Oregon. Many of those developers, like local housing authorities and non-profit community development corporations, are mission driven. Some are for-profit developers that are profit driven.

The scope of Oregon's affordable housing deficit is large enough that we need all developers at the table working to build more homes, but when private, for-profit developers are awarded state funds, there is a potential additional cost at the end of the contract, such as we are seeing now. To address this, we believe Oregon Housing and Community Services should institute a point preference in competitive bidding processes that favors mission-driven applicants over profit-driven applicants.

Thank you for your attention to SB 1557 and for hearing our testimony.

Sincerely,
Ryan Fisher
Lobbyist for the Housing Authorities of Oregon



HAO advocates for policies and resources that create safe,
stable housing options for all Oregonians haoregon.org