



Wednesday, March 19, 2023

Sheila Stiley, Board chair – NW Coastal Housing

Kymberly Horner, Vice-chair - Portland Community Reinvestment Inc.

Rachael Duke, Secretary - Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Kristy Rodriguez, Treasurer - Housing Authority of Malheur & Harney Counties

Trell Anderson – Northwest Housing Alternatives

David Brandt - Housing Works

Wakan Alferes - Homes for Good

Rita Grady – Polk CDC

Maria Elena Guerra - Farmworker Housing Development Corp

Nkenge Harmon Johnson – Urban League of Portland

Brad Ketch – Rockwood CDC & Community Dev. Corp. of Oregon

Erica Mills – NeighborWorks Umpqua

Shannon Vilhauer – Habitat for Humanity Oregon

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 892 – OHCS Statute Clean Up

Dear Chair Jama and Members of the Committee:

Housing Oregon supports SB 892, which provides updates that address several implementation challenges and barriers by streamlining processes and better defining and expanding OHCS’ procurement authority. As an organization that worked closely with OHCS through the COVID-19 pandemic and 2020 wildfire disasters, when expedited delivery of emergency resources was critical, this bill will go a long way towards improving OHCS’ ability to respond more quickly when needed.

We appreciate the attention to clarifying language making it easier for OHCS to partner with Tribal governments and improve access to General Housing Account Program capacity building and TA funds. Cleaning up language about the Housing Stability Council’s role with OHCS and general rulemaking authority will be an improvement.

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of over 80 affordable housing community development corporations (CDCs) and ally organizations committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner.

Housing Oregon urges you to support SB 892. Thank you very much for your consideration of our comments, and for your service to our state. You can reach me at 503-475-6056 or brian@housingoregon.org.

Sincerely,

Brian Hoop
Executive Director
Housing Oregon

P.O. Box 8427, Portland, OR 97207