

March 13, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development
From: Rose Ojeda and Peter Hainley, CASA of Oregon
Re: Support for SB 936

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson and members of the committee,

My name is Rose Ojeda. I am the Director of the Manufactured Housing and Cooperative Development Center of CASA of Oregon. CASA has been working for over 35 years with local communities to develop affordable housing, community facilities and asset building opportunities. We provide homeownership opportunities through resident owned manufactured home communities (ROCs) and provide down payment assistance through Individual Development Accounts.

On behalf of CASA, I participated in the Joint Task Force on Addressing Racial Disparities in Home Ownership where this bill originated. We believe we need to commit significant resources to homeownership in order to ensure that Black, Latino, Indigenous and other communities of color achieve equity in building generational wealth. This bill will help do just that.

We are supportive of this measure and would like to offer a couple of amendments.

In Section 2, we suggest the removal of “single family” to expand eligibility of other homeownership unit types.

In Section 2(5b), the bill suggests that the community land trust model be given a priority. We would like to suggest that language be added to include limited equity cooperatives. CASA’s cooperative development program for manufactured dwelling parks and Square One Villages currently use this model to ensure permanent and affordable homeownership. Part (7) of that same Section 2 references cooperatives so I am assuming that cooperatives were meant to be included as a priority for funding.

We urge your support of SB 936. Thank you.