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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

Feb 14, 2023

Rep. Maxine Dexter
Chair, House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, H-283
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Honorable Chair Dexter and members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Kevin Cronin, I live in Eugene and serve as the director of Member Relations and Industry support for Housing Oregon. We strongly urge you to pass HB2001.

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

Housing Oregon has long advocated and organized through the community reinvestment process for banks to create a fund for pre-development grants and loans. We are thrilled the Oregon Legislature is considering HB2001, which will create a fund to do exactly that for moderate income developments. We would like to see a similar fund targeted to low-income predevelopment. Reasonable lines of credit for predevelopment work is one of the best ways the state can support our members, the mission driven nonprofits working tirelessly to build new affordable housing.

Today, every family entering a new housing development and every person proudly holding a key to their own front door for the first time in years, is at risk of being a few dollars short on rent and losing everything to eviction. We can't let that happen.

Our members have substantial rental housing portfolios, and we appreciate the work that tenant advocates and landlords have done to reach a compromise on the eviction provisions within this bill. Reducing evictions is an essential part of our housing and homelessness response.

We stand with Gov. Kotek and legislative leadership in their commitment to increasing the housing supply and rehousing our homeless neighbors. Preventative measures like HB 2001 will go a long way in preventing more people from falling into homelessness.

In conclusion, we strongly urge this committee to support HB2001, it is vital for fairness and justice in our communities. Thank you very much for your consideration of our comments, and for your service to our state. You can reach me at 971-347-8503 or kevin@housingoregon.org

Kevin Cronin

Director of Member Relations and Industry Support
Housing Oregon