



HOUSING ALLIANCE

June 10, 2021

Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Burdick, Co-Chair Nathanson, Vice-Co-Chair Boquist, Vice-Co-Chair Reschke, Vice-Co-Chair Pham, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to express our support for HB 2551A, which will extend the tax credit for the Oregon Individual Development Account (IDA) Initiative and will make technical changes to improve the Initiative.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a coalition of ninety organizations from all parts of the state. We represent a diverse set of voices including housing developers, residents of affordable housing, local jurisdictions, and organizations working to meet basic needs in every corner of our state. We believe that all Oregonians need a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

In Oregon, three out of four households with extremely low incomes pay over half of their income towards rent. When people pay that much of their income towards rent, they have too few resources left over for food, medicine, or utilities. An emergency of a few hundred dollars may mean they end up experiencing homelessness.

The Oregon Individual Development Account, or IDA, Initiative, is a matched savings program that delivers economic opportunities to low-income individuals and communities of color, by extending the sunset on the IDA tax credit, and committing general fund resources to close the gap for the Initiative. IDAs offer a hope for a better future for people with low incomes, by supporting them to save for the purchase of an asset. IDAs allow someone to save, while taking financial education classes, with a goal in mind of purchasing an asset such as a home, an education, or supporting a small business. Their savings are matched from a state fund, which has been funded through a state tax credit.

The IDA Initiative has been fortunate to have the continued support of the Oregon State Legislature since 1999, through the continued reauthorization of its funding mechanism, a credit on state and local taxes which are granted to taxpayers who contribute to the IDA Initiative. When taxpayers donate one dollar to the IDA Initiative, they receive a ninety-cent state tax credit that can be used to offset their Oregon income tax liability. The tax credit mechanism is efficient and effective, and we urge you to renew it.

Thank you very much for your time, and for your service to our state.

Sincerely,

Alison McIntosh
On Behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance

Housing Alliance Members

*1000 Friends of Oregon
211info
Aging in the Gorge
Benton Habitat for Humanity
Bienestar
Bradley Angle
BRIDGE Housing
Business for a Better Portland
CASA of Oregon
Chrisman Development
Central City Concern
Children First for Oregon
Church Women United of Lane County
City of Beaverton
City of Eugene
City of Hillsboro
City of Portland
City of Tigard
Clackamas County
Coalition of Community Health Clinics
Coalition of Housing Advocates
College Housing Northwest
Community Action Partnership of Oregon
Community Action Team
Community Alliance of Tenants
Community Development Partners
Community Housing Fund
Community Partners for Affordable Housing
Community Vision
Cornerstone Community Housing
DevNW
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Enhabit
Enterprise Community Partners
Fair Housing Council of Oregon
Farmworker Housing Development Corp.
FOOD for Lane County
Habitat for Humanity of Oregon
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East
Hacienda CDC
Housing Authorities of Oregon
Housing Authority of Clackamas County
Housing Development Center
Housing Oregon
Human Solutions
Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization*

*Impact Northwest
Innovative Housing, Inc.
Interfaith Alliance on Poverty
JOIN
Lane County Health and Human Services
League of Oregon Cities
League of Women Voters of Oregon
Lincoln County
Looking Glass Community Services
Mainstream Housing Inc.
Metro
Mid-Columbia Housing Authority
NAYA Family Center
Neighborhood Partnerships
Neighborhood Impact
NeighborWorks Umpqua
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing
Northwest Housing Alternatives
Northwest Pilot Project
Oregon AFSCME Council 75
Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Coalition on Housing & Homelessness
Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities
Oregon Food Bank
Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon
Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives
Portland Homeless Family Solutions
Proud Ground
Raphael House
REACH CDC
Rogue Action Center
Rose CDC
St. Francis Shelter
St. Vincent de Paul of Lane County, Inc.
ShelterCare
Sisters Habitat for Humanity
Sponsors, Inc.
SquareOne Villages
Street Roots
Think Real Estate
Transition Projects
Washington County
Welcome Home Coalition*