



February 9, 2022

Sheila Stiley, Board chair – NW Coastal Housing

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

Rachael Duke, Secretary - Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Trell Anderson, Treasurer –NW Housing Alternatives

David Brandt, Housing Works

Wakan Alferes Homes for Good

Ernesto Fonseca - Hacienda CDC

Maria Elena Guerra - Farmworker Housing Development Corp

Gerrick Harmel - Casa of Oregon

Nkenge Harmon Johnson – Urban League of Portland

Foster Martinez – St. Vincent de Paul Lane County

Kristy Rodriguez – Housing Authority of Malheur & Harney Counties

House Committee on Housing
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Morgan, Vice-Chair Campos, Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Housing Oregon, I express our **support for HB 4123**.

This bill creates a coordinated multi-city and county pilot program for eight communities across Oregon to address homelessness. There is also a sustainability requirement that the participating cities and counties continue funding community resources for this critical work - even *after* the pilot ends.

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of affordable housing community development corporations (CDCs) committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner. We support and strengthen our members by providing training on industry best practices, peer support networks, communications, and advocacy on local and statewide policy issues.

A critical component of this proposed legislation is that it provides human infrastructure, vis a vis, staff. HB 4123 increases the administrative capacity of local governments by working in coordination with participating municipalities to address homelessness. This coordination component helps resolve the dilemma that many local jurisdictions have - the lack of the staff capacity needed to address homelessness.

As you are aware, people of color disproportionately experience homelessness and housing instability due to historic and systemic discrimination in housing, employment, education, healthcare, and other factors. Statistics on rural poverty show disproportionate homelessness among predominately Latinx and Indigenous persons. Whereas the proposed pilot program is not a panacea, upon its completion, it will serve to better inform decision-making regarding equitable and effective resource allocation to document the root causes of homelessness.

HB 4123
Housing Oregon
Support Written Testimony
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Specifically, HB 4123:

- Creates a *best practices metrics* for ending homelessness, while eliminating racial disparities within their homeless service system;
- Creates an *inter-governmental agreement* with regional partners to manage and facilitate the coordinated homeless response office;
- Establishes an *oversight board*, consisting of members from each participating local government; and,
- Generates a *5-year strategic plan* to identify funding gaps in homeless services

Housing Oregon **strongly urges you to vote YES for HB 4123.**

Sincerely,

Stacie Sanders, Director of Policy and Advocacy
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