

February 28, 2023

Senate Committee on Housing and Development –

Thanks for the opportunity to submit my thoughts. My name is Jo Davis and I am writing as a member of the Joint Task Force on Addressing Racial Disparities in Homeownership. I wholeheartedly encourage support of Senate Bill 937. Community land trust models take a people first approach. Community members and CLT renters and homeowners are always involved in the governance of community land trusts. This helps direct the CLT toward development that is in the interest of its community and that reflects the values of its residents. When CLTs place land in control of communities, they are also taking land and housing out of the speculative market. That means that CLT housing remains affordable even when gentrification pressures mount, which protects families from displacement. The success of Senate Bill 937 means we position our community based organizations to be competitive in the marketplace to acquire assets and lead the decisions on economic development and investments.

I am fortunate to be connected with many of the community organizations throughout the state that are ready and able to deploy this type of funding in impactful ways. There are some amazing visions out there for economic revitalization that are bold and could transform and improve the lives of many Oregonians. I believe we have the right leaders in place throughout our nonprofit ecosystem that can provide a strong return on this investment. I urge you to support Senate Bill 937 because it is a tangible and powerful opportunity to close the wealth gap for historically excluded communities.

Respectfully,

Jo Davis (she/her)
Joint Task Force on Addressing Racial Disparities in Homeownership member 2022