

February 27, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, Senate Committee On Housing and Development
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301



Re: Support for Senate Bill 603

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson & Members of the committee,

Shix Maytski, Good Morning -

For the record, my name is Ethan Livermore, I'm Yakama, and the Economic Justice Organizer for the Oregon Economic Justice Roundtable (OEJR), a place for private foundations, financial institutions, community-based organizations, and advocacy groups to share space and discuss what economic and racial justice could and should look like in Oregon. **We urge your support of SB 603.**

We seek to root a culture and community in Oregon that nourishes a sense of belonging, respect, and dignity among and between communities and people. To create an environment and systems of abundance by and for communities of color so that all Oregonians live beyond the basics of safety and security and into the freedom to actualize dreams and the power of communities to control their own financial and economic destiny. **SB 603 will contribute to achieving this vision for all Oregonians.**

Housing costs are the most significant expense for most Oregonians, and as rents rise faster than wages, more people have to make tough decisions, from medical bills to fixing car issues, and especially unforeseen financial emergencies. Unfortunately, Oregonians can wait years before getting assistance and fall into trouble without adequate support. Something else is needed to catch people before it becomes dire.

The People's Housing Assistance Fund will take a step forward for a guaranteed income in Oregon to give Oregonians the necessary resources. In addition, SB 603 will make a demonstrative program that will provide participants with monthly cash payments for the duration of the program. Portland State University will study the program's impacts to inform the future creation of long-term programs.

We are excited to see a community-driven solution like this. Residents of affordable housing asked for this direct cash solution. At the OEJR, cash belongs in the pockets of Oregonians where we know Residents of Affordable Housing will use it to meet the needs they are experiencing effectively and thrive.

Please support SB 603.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ethan Livermore".

Ethan Livermore
Economic Justice Organizer, The Oregon Economic Justice Roundtable
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