



COMMUNITY PARTNERS
FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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February 14th, 2024

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Senator Jama, Senator Anderson, Senator Knopp, Senator Patterson, and Senator Sollman:

I am writing to you as the Executive Director at Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH), a community housing development organization working in Washington and Multnomah Counties. We develop and operate affordable housing, support our residents with services, and provide homeless services for Washington County.

On behalf of CPAH, I want to thank you for your passage of SB 1530 out of committee. This bill includes funding for shelters across the state to remain open, support for tenant education at affordable housing properties or manufactured home parks whose affordability periods will be expiring within the next few years, and \$100M in investments to help bring infrastructure to housing developments. These are meaningful investments which will help provide stable shelter for Oregonians across the state and help provide access to affordable housing.

Nevertheless, I encourage you all to make further housing investments within the final bill. As currently drafted, SB 1530 does not contain any investments to help preserve existing affordable housing which could lose its affordability restrictions or be taken offline without much-needed repairs. At least \$30M is desperately needed to help preserve at least 400 units of affordable housing around the state. The \$2M invested in tenant outreach and education would be even more effective if paired with preservation funds. I also encourage you to include \$15M to build affordable homes for first-time homebuyers and an additional \$5M for Individual Development Accounts to provide access for Oregonians to build intergenerational wealth.

Thank you for your time and your dedication to serving all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Rachael Duke
Executive Director
CPAH

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