



Proud Ground

Diane Linn, Executive Director

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

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

As the Executive Director of Proud Ground, I am writing in support of the House Bill 2009 on behalf of the Proud Ground staff, board and members, I want to express our strong support for HB 3335, which creates the “ADU Community Pilot Programs” affordable small home (ADU) demonstration project.

Proud Ground is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that does serve families in Multnomah County, Washington County, Clackamas, Lincoln and Clark County. Proud Ground creates permanently affordable homeownership opportunities for first-time homebuyers through homebuyer education and counseling, housing development, and asset management. Using the Community Land Trust (CLT) model, Proud Ground has ensured that more than 365 homes remain permanently affordable in the portfolio, and that more than 550 families around the Greater Portland Metro region and Lincoln County receive the stability of homeownership.

Proud Ground stands in support of our partner organization for the ADU Community Pilot Programs demonstration project. It is an innovative effort to create cost-efficient, new affordable rental homes *and* stabilize modest income homeowners in communities across the state. The Pilot Program will provide grants to nonprofit organizations working with homeowners and other community organizations to develop accessory dwelling units for lease to eligible tenants.

ADU's provide an opportunity for affordable rental housing. However, in communities where ADUs are being built, this new housing stock is often not built to be affordable rental housing. This program will remove barriers to *affordable* ADU development by leveraging the capacity of community organizations to support homeowners, and by making a modest investment in the affordability of the new unit – a fraction of typical subsidy to build a new multifamily rental unit! The program has the additional benefit of providing stability and asset building for modest-income homeowners, who may be older adults or persons of color, helping them retain their home and receive a modest monthly income.

In our service area this program gives us the chance to offer the opportunity for our homeowners who are low or moderate income to participate in the benefits from the program.

Dreams Start Here.

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Learning from the ADU Community Pilot Program will be shared with Oregon Housing and Community Services, and with community organizations statewide, so that this new tool can be replicated to address local affordable housing needs across the state. HB 3335 is a smart investment in an innovative approach to increase the supply of desperately needed affordable housing and improve homeowner stability.

We encourage and appreciate your support for HB 3335.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane M. Linn".

Diane Linn, Executive Director
Proud Ground