



March 9, 2023

To: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

From: Rose Ojeda , CASA of Oregon

Re: HB 3215

Chair Dexter, Vice Chairs Helfrich and Gamba and members of the committee,

My name is Peter Hainley and I am Executive Director of CASA of Oregon. CASA has been working with local communities to create housing, facilities and asset building opportunities for 35 years.

After the Almeda Fire in Southern Oregon destroyed homes and business in Talent, Phoenix and unincorporated Jackson County, CASA conducted a study of the fires impacts on the Latinx population. In the course of our work, we acted as the fiscal agent for an organization that ultimately became Coalición Fortaleza (CF). CF has been a key partner in working with the community in recovery from the fires and is a partner with us on two housing projects that CASA is currently developing.

We are working in to rebuild Talent Mobile Estates, which is comprised of nearly 90 manufactured homes, 89 of which were destroyed in 2020. We are also working on the construction of Summit Gardens, a 34-unit apartment complex dedicated to agricultural workers. Along with a multitude of other projects being constructed to house those recovering from the fires, Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) has been the go-to agency for housing recovery efforts

HB 3215 is common-sense legislation that will help our state be prepared for future disasters. The 2020 wildfires were a wakeup call telling us to be prepared for future disasters. As we know from past fires and floods, you can never be too prepared. Having OHCS prepared to lead in recovery efforts will ensure Oregonians that our government is doing its job.

We urge your support of this HB 3215. Thank you.