



WASHINGTON COUNTY

OREGON

March 5, 2025

Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301
Re: Support for Affordable Housing Preservation Package (SBs 973, 31, & 32)

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

Members of the Washington County Housing Advisory Committee urges your support of the package of bills (SB 973, SB 31 and SB 32) focused on providing transparent information and critical protections and assistance for Oregonians who face displacement and possible homelessness because the affordability restrictions for their homes will expire - crucial and meaningful priority for Washington County.

This package strengthens tenant notification to ensure tenants have time and information to make the best choice for their family. It provides resources to impacted tenants, so that residents in our county are still being supported if there is risk of their housing losing affordability and gives local leaders tools to support our community.

In our community alone, over 1,334 homes are at risk of having their affordability restrictions expire over the next decade. And over 8,600 homes statewide. We understand how vital it is to invest in preservation as a strategy to address our housing crisis.

In Washington County, we saw firsthand the anxiety from vulnerable senior residents of Woodspring Apartments, which where units slated to convert to market rate. With support from OHCS and the Housing Authority of Washington County, we were able to acquire Woodspring, commit to decades more of affordability, and assuage the fears of the existing 172 of extremely low-income households. We appreciate OHCS for stepping in to support our community and avoid the loss of affordable housing. We value the partnership that exists between the county and the state to problem solve and address housing insecurity in our communities.

The Housing Advisory Committee is composed of community members, with diverse professional and lived experiences, who advises the Housing Authority Board of Directors in Washington County on policy matters, identifies housing issues, and recommends programs and services. We, as representatives of the Housing Advisory Committee, urge your support of SB 973, SB 31 and SB 32, and your support for all the needed investments in preserving affordable housing across the state.

Sincerely,
Melinda Bell, Chair
Ryan Cain, Vice Chair
Members of the Washington County Housing Advisory Committee