



March 20, 2023

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*Maria Elena Guerra - Farmworker Housing Development Corp*

*Nkenge Harmon Johnson – Urban League of Portland*

*Brad Ketch – Rockwood CDC & Community Dev. Corp. of Oregon*

*Erica Mills – NeighborWorks Umpqua*

*Shannon Vilhauer – Habitat for Humanity Oregon*

**Representative Maxine Dexter**  
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness  
900 Court St NE, H-283  
Salem, OR 97301

## **Re: Support for House Bill 3482**

Chair Dexter, Co-Vice Chair Gamba, Co-Vice Chair Helfrich, and Members of the Committee:

Housing Oregon calls on you to support the full funding and passage of HB 3482 to provide resources for non-profits, faith communities, tribal communities, housing authorities, and local governments in the process of developing affordable housing on their property.

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of over 80 affordable housing community development corporations (CDCs) and ally organizations committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner. Our member organizations stand at the ready to partner with faith-based and other nonprofits to build affordable housing on their developable land.

We have already initiated discussions to work with organizations like Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon to connect landowners with community development corporations in communities across Oregon. This bill will help overcome obstacles nonprofit landowners face when contemplating how to build affordable housing on their land, such as starting costs and lack of knowledge on housing development.

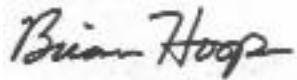
HB 3482 provides resources in two crucial areas for these groups — pre-development support and technical assistance. First, this bill will provide financial support for pre-development costs involved in developing affordable housing such as land surveys to community engagement efforts. On their own, these costs can often total over \$100,000 and prevent projects from getting off the ground. Giving

organizations access to pre-development dollars will help to ensure that projects are able to get started without costs being a barrier.

Second, HB 3482 will provide a resource to assist with project management. This would be done through awarding funding to a non-profit organization with expertise in affordable housing development as well as the frameworks of community groups to guide communities through the development process. This organization will play a crucial role in informing the public about the availability of the grant program as well as serve as a resource in helping communities during project development.

We call on you to join us in supporting HB 3482. Thank you very much for your consideration of our comments. You can reach me at 503-475-6056 or [brian@housingoregon.org](mailto:brian@housingoregon.org).

Sincerely,



Brian Hoop  
Executive Director  
Housing Oregon