



March 9, 2023

Sheila Stiley, Board chair – NW Coastal Housing

Kymberly Horner, Vice-chair - Portland Community Reinvestment Inc.

Rachael Duke, Secretary - Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Kristy Rodriguez, Treasurer - Housing Authority of Malheur & Harney Counties

Trell Anderson – Northwest Housing Alternatives

David Brandt - Housing Works

Wakan Alferes - Homes for Good

Rita Grady – Polk CDC

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 3215

Dear Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

Housing Oregon calls on you to support House Bill 3215, which enables Oregon Housing and Community Services to more effectively provide for the long-term housing needs that result from disasters, wherever they may occur across the state.

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. With our Rural Policy Council, we brought together our member organizations in counties affected by the 2020 Labor Day fires to work with OHCS on emergency response and recovery efforts.

HB 3215 is a common-sense proposal to establish structure and clear authority for OHCS’ role in long-term recovery when disasters occur. In addition to the ongoing threat of fires such as the 2020 events that directly inspired this bill, history and science tell us that other types of disasters are likely to strike in the coming years – such as tsunamis, floods and major earthquakes. This bill supports OHCS in being prepared to quickly and effectively support the development of housing as part of a coordinated recovery effort following future disasters.

Thank you very much for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Brian Hoop
Executive Director
Housing Oregon