



March 3, 2025

Representative Pam Marsh
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, H-474
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3503,

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Housing Alliance is urging your support for HB 3503. It provides a unique and time-sensitive opportunity to transition affordable rental homes into the community land trusts (CLT) model. Housing Authorities across the state are currently engaging with HUD's Section 18 disposition process for their scattered-site portfolios. And HB 3503 amplifies these intentional efforts by investing in Community LendingWorks, a Community Development Financial Institution, to preserve these homes in Clackamas County into affordable homeownership opportunities.

CLTs create affordable homeownership by holding the land in trust and removing the cost of the land from the price of homes. With housing prices skyrocketing far quicker than wages, CLTs allow families qualifying families to access the lasting benefits of homeownership. We hope the investments in HB 3503 can be expanded to other counties in the future.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of over 100 member organizations, including tenant organizations; affordable housing developers and operators; social service providers and shelter operators; Community Action Agencies; Public Housing Authorities; housing industry businesses and professionals; city and county governments; and community-based nonprofits and advocacy groups. Many of our members are within the community land trust ecosystem and organizations that are committed to expanding homeownership opportunities across the state.

Our diverse membership is united by the belief that every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe. To this end, we urge your support of House Bill 3503.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Markillie
Oregon Housing Alliance
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A statewide coalition of housing providers, tenant organizations, homeless service agencies, local governments, and housing advocates. We believe every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe.
oregonhousingalliance.org