



*Housing Oregon  
Board members:*

November 24, 2020

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Coastal Housing*

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Ground*

*Travis Phillips,  
Secretary –  
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*Trell Anderson,  
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Alternatives*

*Rachael Duke -  
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Partners for  
Affordable Housing*

*Ernesto Fonseca -  
Hacienda CDC*

*Nkenge Harmon  
Johnson – Urban  
League of Portland*

*Sean Hubert-  
Central City  
Concern*

*Richard Morrow –  
Columbia Cascade  
Housing Corp.*

*Arielle Reid –  
NeighborWorks  
Umpqua*

*Lisa Rogers –  
CASA of Oregon*

Representative Julie Fahey  
Chair, House Interim Committee on Housing  
900 Court St. NE, H-474  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Fahey and members of the House Interim Committee on Housing:

Thank you for your leadership taking under consideration extending the eviction moratorium and the landlord compensation fund.

Housing Oregon was one of the first organizations in March 2020 to urge statewide adoption of an eviction moratorium as a necessary tool to ensure Oregonians can maintain safe shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize the pandemic has disproportionately affected communities of color, both in terms of devastating health impact as well as economic hardship.

Despite the growing economic challenges brought about by the loss of rental income due to the pandemic affecting our members, **Housing Oregon remains in support of extending the eviction moratorium and inclusion of the Landlord Compensation Fund proposed in Legislative Concept 18** being considered by the House Interim Committee on Housing.

We urge you to support calls for a Special Session in December in order to approve these protections to make sure Oregonians can stay in their homes as the pandemic worsens and as the weather gets colder.

We have not had enough time to fully vet LC 18 since being released November 20<sup>th</sup> and look forward to providing further feedback prior to consideration during a possible special session. However, this proposal goes a long way towards providing a strategy to “step down” from the eviction moratorium with expanded financial resources to landlords.

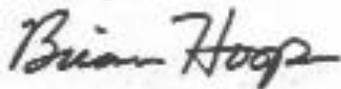
A key concern is to keep the administrative structure simple, both for the tenants and landlords. While we understand the urge to incorporate accountability on the part of tenants, requiring additional documentation will be a barrier for some tenants, likely disproportionately affecting people of color and undocumented tenants who may be hesitant to sign such documentation. Some of our members are reporting they have not claimed the full amount of rent A/R due through other programs due to hesitancy of tenants to complete required documentation. The proposed documentation also creates one extra layer our members will have to coordinate as part of applying for these funds.

As mission driven organizations, it is critical to keep our eyes on the goal of ensuring long-term housing stability for low-income Oregonians. Bringing residents who are behind on rent payments back into stability needs to include paying off the entire back balance owed, and this is just a first step. We also need a go-forward assistance plan that will enable residents to see a light at the end of the tunnel. Investments in supportive services, employment assistance, and ongoing housing retention supports are needed to ensure residents can avoid evictions and prolonged instability. Rental assistance, whether tenant-based or landlord-based, needs to be an essential part of this strategy.

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of 45 affordable housing Community Development Corporations (CDCs) committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner. We are working towards a day when every Oregonian has a safe and healthy place to call home.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions at 503-475-6056 or [brian@housingoregon.org](mailto:brian@housingoregon.org).

Sincerely,



Brian Hoop  
Executive Director  
Housing Oregon

cc: Representative Mark Meek  
Representative Jack Zika  
Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer  
Representative Pam Marsh  
Representative Mark Owens  
Representative Duane Stark