



Housing Alliance Action Steps for the February 2008 Legislative Session

Let's Pass SB 1073!

We need your help to protect the homes of seniors, people with disabilities and vulnerable families. Here is what you can do:

- **Write a letter to your local paper**
- **Email or call your Senator and Representative**

Write a Letter to the Editor: One of the best ways to influence elected officials is through the media. Writing a letter is easy. Most newspapers only accept short letters (125 words or less), so simple is the way to go. See below for suggested talking points. Go to your local newspaper's website and you will either be able to submit your letter over the web, or send the letter in by email. We need as many letters in as many papers as possible through the first week of February.

Email or call your Senator and Representative: It is very important that your Senator and Representative hear from his or her constituents on SB 1073. Using the same suggested talking points (see below), write a brief letter/email or make a phone call to both your Representative and Senator. In general it's more powerful to call or send a personal letter, but emails are helpful too. You can find your legislators' contact information at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/findlegsltr/>.

Suggested Talking Points: Every letter, email or call should include a few basic elements: (1) Opening statement of support, (2) a brief explanation of the problem, (3) a statement of why you care about this issue, and (4) why SB 1073 will make a difference.

1. Opening statement: **We need the Legislature to allocate \$2 Million to create a Housing Acquisition Fund to help preserve 7000 affordable homes in Oregon.**
2. Brief explanation of problem: **Federal contracts that have provided affordable homes to seniors, people with disabilities, working families for the last 20 years or more are about to expire. If the contracts are allowed to lapse, all of these households will be at risk of losing their homes.**
3. Why I care (choose one):
 - **When people do not have a place to call home, families and communities suffer. Oregon cannot afford to lose vital affordable housing, and these Oregon families cannot afford to lose their homes. We need to protect housing opportunity for all Oregonians.**
 - **It's only fair that everyone has a safe, decent place to live. We need to protect this valuable affordable housing for the seniors, people with disabilities and families with children that call it home.**
 - **Children deserve an opportunity to succeed in school and life, which is tied to having a stable home. Currently, families with children comprise 72% of those being turned away from emergency shelters. Let's protect the housing for families we already have. The Housing Acquisition Fund**

requires a small investment by the state but saves us all a lot in the long run.

- 4. Pass SB 1073 and Protect Our Homes: The Housing Acquisition Fund is an essential tool to save our homes. A \$2 million investment from the state will leverage an estimated \$150 million from private foundations, commercial banks and other local governments. Plus, by preserving this housing Oregon saves well over \$250 million in potential replacement costs and lost federal subsidies. Passing SB 1073 is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do.**

Questions about writing a letter or contacting your legislator? Call Michael Anderson at (503) 577-5124 or Amy Fauver at (503) 226-3001 x-102.