



Clatsop County
Board of Commissioners

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February 23, 2024

The Honorable Ron Wyden
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Senators Wyden and Merkley,

The Clatsop County Board of Commissioners is pleased to extend our support for Community Action Team's funding request for the Elk Creek Apartments Affordable Housing Preservation project.

The Elk Creek Terrace apartments are located in the City of Cannon Beach and are essentially the only workforce housing in the area. These units are primarily occupied by members of the BIPOC community. The vast majority of these workers are from the local service industries.

Affordable housing is a critical need in our community. While we work towards expanding our local inventory, it is equally important that we maintain existing affordable housing.

Currently, Zillow shows only three rental listings in Cannon Beach—two of which are for applying to affordable housing waitlists. The third and only available apartment for rent is a 483 square foot one-bedroom unit for \$1,575 per month plus utilities. This compares to a two-bedroom apartment at Elk Creek, with affordable housing rent of around \$677 per month, plus a monthly utility allowance to assist residents in affording to live in the community where they work or just want to call home. There are currently 60 households on the waiting list for these apartments; turnover of affordable housing units is infrequent – just two in the last 12 months – and people wanting to rent these units can be on those lists for 5 to 6 years, or longer, before their name gets to the top of the list.

We hope that you will support Community Action Team's request for the funding needed to preserve Elk Creek Apartments affordable housing units, serving low- and very-low income households wishing to make Cannon Beach their chosen home.

Sincerely,

Mark Kujala, Chair
Clatsop County Board of Commissioners