



March 21, 2024

Catherine Ciarlo
Director of Planning, Development & Research
Metro Regional Government
600 N. Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Director Ciarlo,

We are writing to express Unite Oregon's enthusiastic support for Metro's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) program in its application to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funds to bolster energy efficiency in new affordable housing. As a membership organization led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty that works across Oregon to build a unified, intercultural movement for justice, Unite Oregon has been a longtime partner of Metro's planning work. We support Metro's commitment to spearheading innovative solutions to address the intersecting challenges of housing affordability, transportation access, and climate change. In particular, we support the TOD program's alignment with the goals outlined in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. By focusing on investing in energy efficiency, the program will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and alleviate the burden of utility expenses for low-income households, a crucial step towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

Unite Oregon has had many opportunities to collaborate with Metro over the years, particularly as an organizer and facilitator of community engagement for new transit and affordable housing investments. Through our joint efforts, we have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that thoughtful and equitable transit-oriented development can have on communities, fostering economic opportunity, enhancing access to essential services, and promoting social cohesion. As an organization deeply committed to elevating the needs of vulnerable communities, Unite Oregon recognizes the urgent need to address the challenges posed by climate change. The TOD program's emphasis on energy efficiency in affordable housing not only contributes to greenhouse gas reduction but also enhances the resilience of our communities in the face of environmental threats. By investing in sustainable infrastructure and affordable housing, we not only mitigate the immediate impacts of climate change but also lay the groundwork for a more resilient and prosperous future.

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In light of these shared objectives, Unite Oregon reaffirms its commitment to collaborating with Metro's TOD program to advance the goals of community empowerment and climate leadership. We are ready to lend our support and expertise to initiatives that promote sustainable development, equitable access to affordable housing, and environmental stewardship. We commit to helping deepen inclusive community engagement and helping to drive progress toward our shared climate goals. Together, we can build stronger, more resilient communities that prioritize the well-being of all residents, particularly those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and economic inequality.

Thank you for your dedication to these important initiatives, and we look forward to continuing our partnership in pursuit of our shared goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Khanh Le", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Khanh Le
Executive Director