

City of Albany

Summary of Comments Received for PRO Housing Grant Application

All written comments received exhibit support for this project and highlighted the desire for more affordable housing in Albany. Public comments underscored the benefit of added affordable housing for vulnerable or marginalized residents in Albany. Further, comments indicate the infrastructure extension, particularly Goldfish Farm Road, would enhance Albany's transportation system and offer improved pedestrian and cycling mobility in the area. Public comments also expressed support for the services provided by FHDC including the onsite childcare facility in phase III and an enthusiasm for the quality of FHDC developments. The selection of quotes below is demonstrative of the community support shown in the public comments received for the City of Albany's PRO Housing application.

"We extend our full support for the City of Albany's Pathways to Removing Obstacles Housing (PRO Housing) grant application. As an affordable housing developer (both rental and for ownership), we recognize the challenges cities and affordable developers across the state are facing in working to solve the housing crisis—from limited funding to limited capacity, it can become a long road to make a project move forward. The Colonia Solidaridad project mixes both affordable rental and pathways for homeownership at the same site, creating an inclusive, supportive community that promotes long-term asset and generational wealth building. We are thrilled to see the proactive approach to securing federal resources to support local needs."

"FHDC's plans to create a certified childcare center for residents of their housing development is an extremely responsible choice, increasing the supply of childcare while also increasing the demand with their new housing development. More so, not only will their proposed childcare center have the capacity to meet resident family needs, the FHDC's plans will allow extra slots to be used by the community at large, which would be greatly beneficial to the city. As such, the Early Learning Hub wholeheartedly supports FHDC's housing development project and its PRO Housing Grant Application."

"I recognize the critical need for affordable housing in our community and after having seen other projects developed by the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, I know that the housing that would be built is just what our area needs. This part of Albany has so much potential for becoming a thriving, vital neighborhood. The addition of affordable housing and street extension would go so far in making this possible, and even has the added advantage of being so close into town. There would be no need for more sprawl and car only transportation; instead, there would be a neighborhood street connecting all residents with services and transit opportunities. Receiving the PRO Housing grant would be a win for residents, for the city, and the environment, and that is why I so strongly support it."

"Thank you so much for this opportunity to express my wholehearted support for the City's PRO grant application to prepare the ground for development by the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation on an extension of Goldfish Farm Road. I've known about FHDC for a number of years and have visited their existing Colonia. I've been so impressed with the quality of the housing and the thoughtful planning of the developments to include space for on-site services and supports. It's my experience that FHDC builds – and maintains -- exactly the kind of affordable housing Albany has prioritized. I've also heard from our local agencies with experience and expertise in affordable housing that FHDC is a strong and reliable partner."

“Survivors of violence are often on the front lines of homelessness, particularly survivors of domestic violence who are in the process of fully separating from their abuser. With finances often inaccessible due to legal proceedings or financial abuse, survivors are left with little resources to secure housing. The partnership between the City of Albany and FHDC to build up to 162 units of multicultural affordable housing is a critical step needed to meet the affordable housing needs in our community.”

- **Karen Saxe**, DevNW, Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Strategic Relationships
- **Bryan Steinhauer**, Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties
- **Susan Heath**, Resident, Albany, OR
- **Nany Greenman**, Member of Linn Benton Hispanic Advisory Committee
- **Larry Preston**, Larry Preston Remodeling and Repair
- **Stephanie Miller**, Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence, Executive Director