OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE

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House Republicans Named Legislative Champions for Housing Efforts

Representative Julie Parrish and Representative Duane Stark
Recognized By Oregon Opportunity Network

Salem, OR – Two House Republicans were today named 2015 Legislative Champions by the Oregon Opportunity Network. Representative Julie Parrish (R-West Linn/Tualatin) and freshman Representative Duane Stark (R-Grants Pass) were part of a bipartisan group recognized by the advocacy organization for "their passion for housing opportunity" and for helping "champion policies and resources for housing during the 2015 legislative session."

Representatives Parrish and Stark both served on the House Committee on Human Services and Housing during the 2015 Legislative Session, where they spearheaded various housing opportunities for vulnerable Oregonians. Rep. Stark successfully carried and passed Senate Bill 616, which helps preserve funding for housing needs for individuals with developmental disabilities. Rep. Parrish has spent the last year co-chairing the ABC Housing Workgroup which arose out of the 2014 legislative session. That effort generated more than forty ideas to address the needs of affordable housing and access for low-income Oregonians. One such idea became House Bill 3524, sponsored by Rep. Parrish and Rep. Jeff Reardon, which allows non-profits with an affordable housing mission to have a first shot at buying state-owned land for the purpose of building new affordable housing inventory.

"I am humbled to be included among this esteemed group of legislators," said Rep. Stark, who served as Vice-Chair of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing during the 2015 Legislative Session. "State government can't be all things to all people, but shelter is a basic need we can help provide for low-income Oregonians, especially some of our more vulnerable populations. Going forward, I will continue to seek solutions so that all families have access to affordable housing in the public and private sector."

"Growing up, there were times I didn't have a home. Over the years, I've focused on stable housing as the key to solving many other social service needs," said Rep. Parrish, who received the Oregon Opportunity Network Legislative Champion Award in 2013. "If you don't have a safe, reliable, and affordable place to live, it affects your ability to hold a job, get an education, or even feed your family a nutritious meal. I am committed to working on housing issues as long as it takes to ensure all Oregonians have a place to call home."

Reps. Parrish and Stark will be on hand to receive their awards at the Oregon Opportunity Network Gala on September 21, 2015. Scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, the event will celebrate local and statewide accomplishments in affordable housing and community development. Other 2015 Legislative Champions include Governor Kate Brown, House Speaker Tina Kotek, Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer and Representative Jeff Reardon. For more information regarding the gala, please visit the Oregon Opportunity Network website.