



March 25, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on  
Transportation and Economic Development

Attention: Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Committee

My name is M.A. Leonard, Vice President and Market Leader for Enterprise Community Partners Pacific Northwest office, and I am writing to you today to express my support for SB 5512. This bill addresses a critical need in Oregon by providing additional resources and support for low-income families and to create more affordable housing.

At Enterprise Community Partners we believe that we can help families access opportunity through quality, safe, and affordable homes. As a national organization, we have chosen to dive deep in 11 markets across the country, including here in the Pacific Northwest serving both Oregon and Washington. In Multnomah County, for every 100 families with extremely low incomes, there are only 22 affordable units available. That means that only 2 out of every 10 families have access to an affordable home that is within their means. Our work in Oregon hopes to provide more affordable homes for these families and to reduce the severity of the housing crisis by supporting families.

We support SB 5512 because it will include:

- Additional resources to support preventing or ending homelessness, through investments in the Emergency Housing Account and State Homeless Assistance Program, or investments in ending homelessness for children and families;
- Additional resources to support investments to assist renters in the private market.
- Additional resources to support developing new affordable rental homes.
- Additional resources to maintain affordable housing.
- Additional resources to support developing new affordable homes for sale.

Creating opportunities and access to an affordable home will have lasting substantial impacts for individuals and families. Children that live in a stable home have better odds of performing better in schools. And for many adults, having a stable and affordable home is the first step to long-lasting, sustainable recovery.

I strongly encourage you to take action to help reduce the housing crisis and vote in support of SB 5512. With an additional \$200 million to develop new affordable homes across Oregon, developers will be able to build more housing to address the housing needs of the state. Yet, it is also important to recognize that an increase in staffing capacity will ensure that work happens smoothly and timely.

So many of the pathways to opportunity begin in a home, and access to opportunity should be afforded to every Oregonian. Thank you to the committee for your attention and for your service.

Sincerely,

M.A. Leonard

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.A. Leonard".

Vice President and Market Leader  
Enterprise Community Partners – Pacific Northwest.

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