



Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Re: HB 5005

April 12, 2019

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of affordable housing bonds in HB 5005. My name is Jenny Lee, and I'm the Advocacy Director at Building Power for Communities of Color, a nonprofit dedicated to policy advocacy for communities of color that will help us achieve a more equitable Oregon.

We are writing in strong support of including the Oregon Housing Alliance's request for \$200 million in General Obligation Article XI-Q bonds to build affordable homes across Oregon. Communities of color, both rural and urban, struggle with access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. Increased housing resources to serve these families will lay a foundation for families to thrive and support better outcomes in education, health, and family stability. Half of these bonds are dedicated to serving families of color, helping to serve people who are disproportionately impacted by Oregon's affordable housing crisis.

We also support dedicating 20 percent of these bonds toward affordable homeownership. The racial wealth gap is heavily rooted in exclusionary housing policies that have created dramatic disparities in homeownership rates. For many families of color, owning a home of their own is a major goal, but rising home prices and challenges saving for a down payment mean that this dream is out of reach. By dedicating 20 percent of these bonds toward homeownership, we can support families afford their own home and build wealth, creating a more equitable state.

When we invest in affordable homes, we create a brighter future for Oregon families and opportunities for more inclusive communities. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jenny Lee  
Advocacy Director  
Building Power for Communities of Color