

Housing Oregon Board members:

February 14, 2020

Sheila Stiley, Board chair – NW Coastal Housing

Diane Linn, Vice-chair - Proud Ground

Travis Phillips, Secretary – Catholic Charities of Oregon

Trell Anderson, Treasurer –NW Housing Alternatives

Rachael Duke -Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Ernesto Fonseca -Hacienda CDC

Nkenge Harmon Johnson – Urban League of Portland

Sean Hubert-Central City Concern

Richard Morrow – Columbia Cascade Housing Corp.

Arielle Reid – NeighborWorks Umpqua

Lisa Rogers – CASA of Oregon Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

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

Housing Oregon is writing in support of HB 5201, and the Speaker's request for \$50 million in General Obligation, Article XI-Q bonds to build affordable homes across Oregon, and \$20 million for Lottery Bonds to maintain existing affordable homes.

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of fifty affordable housing community development corporations (CDCs) committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum – from homeless to homeowner.

We are working towards a day when every Oregonian has a safe and healthy place to call home. We need to remove the barriers that Oregonians with low incomes face in finding housing they can afford, close to work and schools. By investing in housing opportunities, we can create an Oregon with a better future for all of us.

As you know, Oregon has a serious shortage of affordable housing. For every 100 families with extremely low incomes, there are only 29 affordable units available. 105,478 units are needed to meet the need.

Housing Oregon's member organizations are on the front lines building new and preserving existing affordable homes for rent and for sale across Oregon. With additional resources, we are ready to work with Oregon Housing and Community Services to expand safe, stable and affordable housing opportunities for many more individuals, families, and communities. Housing Oregon thank the Oregon Legislature, which since 2015, has committed \$120 million in general obligation bonds to the LIFT program. With these funds 2,000 affordable homes are being built across Oregon from Newport to Ontario, Klamath Falls to Astoria, Roseburg, Hermiston, Eugene, Bend, Redmond, and Sisters, and everywhere in between.

Housing Oregon urges you to support an additional \$50 million to develop new affordable homes across Oregon - 80% to affordable rental homes and 20% to affordable homes for sale.

Housing Oregon thanks the Committee for your attention to this critical statewide issue and for your public service.

Sincerely,

Brian Hoga

Brian Hoop Director, Housing Oregon

thaila It

Sheila Stiley Chair, Housing Oregon Executive Director NW Coastal Housing