



St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.

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March 29, 2021

Joint Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Committee:

I write to you today on behalf of St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc. in support of HB 5011, and the recommended budget for the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Department for the 2021-2023 biennium.

SVdP provides shelter and emergency services for the homeless, low barrier employment opportunities through our waste-based business, and over 1,600 affordable housing units, primarily in Lane and Marion Counties. We are one of the developers focused on mobile home park acquisition and rehabilitation throughout Oregon—mainly in rural communities, however we have transformed a park in the Cully neighborhood of Portland and preserved another in NE Portland. While we generally support the entire recommended budget, we are particularly supportive of the funding for mobile home park acquisition and mobile home park replacement. Mobile home parks are a critical piece of the state's affordable housing reservoir across the state.

In our work, we continue to see our clients suffer through these extraordinary times. We are doing all we can to assist them but need your continued support to create and preserve affordable housing in Oregon. Safe, secure housing is the first step to family stability.

Throughout the years, SVdP has utilized a multitude of OHCS programs to a wide range of affordable housing developments in rural and urban communities to serve a variety of residents from our most vulnerable to low wage workers—whom now are rightfully recognized as essential workers. These units are critical not only for individual and family stability, but for community stability as well.

We strongly support the passage of HB 5011 so that organizations like ours can continue to partner with OHCS and work to serve the people of Oregon.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terrence R. McDonald'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Terrence R. McDonald

Executive Director, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, Inc.