



April 8th, 2021

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street
Salem, OR 97301

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

I write to you today to support SB-5505 and the inclusion of \$250 million for affordable housing and \$50 million for permanent supportive housing in Article XI-Q General Obligation bonds.

Hacienda Community Development Corporation (Hacienda CDC) is a Latino Community Development Corporation that strengthens families by providing affordable housing, homeownership support, economic advancement, and educational opportunities. Since 1992, our organization has provided affordable housing for thousands of low-income community members while providing them with the tools to succeed in our local economy through Youth and Family Services, Small Business Development, and Economic Opportunity.

As a socially responsible organization, we firmly believe in housing as a basic human need to be safe, feel safe, and have a place of respite to call home.

Before the COVID pandemic, Oregon was already experiencing a housing crisis, with too many of our neighbors and community members experiencing housing instability. In the 2019-20 school year, over 21,000 kids with their families experienced homelessness at some point during the years. Due to COVID and the early closure of schools, we know this is likely an undercount.

Since 2015, the Legislature has committed millions in general obligation bonds to the LIFT program, and over 3,600 affordable homes have been or are being built. These homes are reshaping communities across Oregon – Newport to Ontario, Klamath Falls to Astoria, Roseburg, Hermiston, Eugene, Bend, Redmond, and Sisters, and everywhere in between. This includes Las Adelitas, a Hacienda development that broke ground last month. Las Adelitas will include 142 new affordable homes in the Cully neighborhood, revitalizing a site that was for too many years, a neighborhood challenge. With additional resources, we can support more of this work and build projects across Oregon to provide safe and stable places to call home for our communities.

In Hacienda, we also believe in going where our communities are. Because of this, we have been exploring and expanding our services to other communities. Currently, we are actively working with some community leaders in Umatilla County to bring our host of services and develop housing in that community. LIFT would provide many of the resources needed to support this community and many others across the state.

We urge your support for the inclusion of \$250 million for affordable housing and \$50 million for permanent supportive housing in Article XI-Q General Obligation bonds in SB 5505.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Ernesto Fonseca", is written over a light purple circular scribble.

Ernesto Fonseca, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
Hacienda CDC