

April 9, 2021

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

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

I am writing you to express my support for SB 5505. In particular, I urge you to include the \$250 million for affordable housing and \$50 million for permanent supportive housing which are in Article XI-Q General Obligation bonds.

I live in rural Wasco County, and formerly lived for many years in Portland. Wherever I go in Oregon, I see that homelessness and a lack of affordable housing are top issues in our local communities to an extent never before seen.

Since moving to Wasco County I have worked on various projects to help adults and youth who do not have a secure home. I have been glad to work on providing winter shelter to unhoused people, but as I talk with our guests, I realize the lack of affordable housing in the Gorge creates a major obstacle as they try to move forward in their lives. And for those who are struggling with addiction or mental health problems, the services included in permanent supportive housing are clearly essential to their success.

A safe and affordable home should be available to all of Oregon's citizens. I hope I can count on you to include \$250 million for affordable housing and \$50 million for permanent supportive housing in the form of G.O. bonds in SB 5505 after it is reviewed by your subcommittee.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely,

William L. White
Mosier, Oregon