



## **Klamath Housing Authority**

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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 write to you today on behalf of Klamath Housing Authority in support of 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.

The mission of Klamath Housing Authority is to provide opportunities for people in Klamath and Lake Counties to obtain affordable housing and achieve self-sufficiency. We have been able to do this successfully the last few years by obtaining money through OHCS. We are in the last phase of building a 58 unit affordable housing complex using LIFT funds. We already have over 200 families on the waiting list and they will not be ready for 2 more months. We also currently have an application in to build some much needed Permanent Supportive Housing in Lakeview.

A safe and stable place to call home is a basic human need.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, Oregon was already experiencing a housing crisis, and too many of our neighbors and community members were experiencing housing instability. In the 2019-20 school year, over 21,000 kids experienced homelessness at some point during the year, with their families. 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 being built in communities across Oregon – Newport to Ontario, Klamath Falls to Astoria, Roseburg, Hermiston, Eugene, Bend, Redmond, and Sisters, and everywhere in between. 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 members of our communities.

Providing a stable home is one of the key factors in how successful people will be. I truly believe once people are housed we can begin to work on the issues that have caused them to be homeless. The lack of available affordable housing is only getting worse.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Diana Otero  
Executive Director