



Habitat for Humanity[®]

of Lincoln County

April 9, 2021

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

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

My name is Lucinda Taylor, and I have the honor of serving as the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County.

I am writing to share our organization's strong support for SB 5505, and the Housing Alliance request for \$250 million in General Obligation, Article XI-Q bonds to build affordable homes across Oregon through the LIFT program, including 20% for homeownership.

In Oregon, 1 in 7 households spend half or more of their income on housing, and the economic impacts from the coronavirus pandemic are exacerbating housing affordability and stability challenges for many families across our state. At our organization, we've also seen the price of land, labor and construction materials rise year after year — which is why we turn to innovative programs like LIFT, which has enabled our organization to expand capacity and create permanently affordable homes.

To date, Habitat for Humanity affiliates have successfully applied for LIFT funding to offset the cost to build 138 homes that will remain permanently affordable for purchase to Oregonians earning up to 80% of the area median income. This program has enabled Habitat for Humanity affiliates of every size to expand their home building capacity.

We received a LIFT award for \$140,000 last year and are currently in the process of selecting two low-income families to partner with us and help build their new homes. These families will benefit from an affordable mortgage and the stability homeownership brings. These homes will be permanently affordable, benefiting additional low-income families far into the future.

Since 2015, the Legislature has committed millions in general obligation bonds to the LIFT program, and more than 3,600 affordable homes have been or are being built. 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.

We urge your support for the inclusion of \$250 million for affordable housing, including 20% for homeownership, 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,



Lucinda Taylor

Executive Director