



CITY OF BEND



April 9, 2021

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 5505 – Support for Affordable Housing Bonding

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

The LOC represents all 241 incorporated cities across Oregon, which large and small, continue to face escalating rates of homelessness and a severe shortage of affordable and available housing. In the 2021 Legislative Session, the LOC is advocating to increase critical state investments in housing and services programs across the housing spectrum, from preventing and ending homelessness, to developing and maintaining affordable homes, to increasing access to and maintenance of affordable homeownership.

We write in strong support for \$250 million for LIFT affordable housing, including 20% to build affordable homes for purchase, and \$50 million for permanent supportive housing in Article XI-Q General Obligation bonds in SB 5505.

The Legislature made recent, record investments to fund the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) affordable housing development program, which has supported the development of over 3,600 affordable homes across Oregon. In 2019, the Legislature invested over \$50M to launch a three-pronged permanent supportive housing program, that includes development costs to build, rent assistance to keep units deeply affordable, and wrap around services that are key to ensuring residents’ long-term stability. The state should continue investing in this proven model to end chronic homelessness.

Cities are committed to improving the housing opportunities and quality of life for the people we serve. 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 consideration.