



We build strength, stability, self-reliance *and* shelter.

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 Rick Rogers, the Executive Director of Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity.

I write to you today on behalf of Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity in support of 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 are a small affiliate that serves Newberg, Dayton, Dundee, St. Paul and Sherwood. To date, LIFT funds have helped us to build two decent, safe, affordable homes in Newberg.

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.



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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rick Rogers".

Rick Rogers  
Executive Director

P.S. I should also divulge that I am Newberg Mayor and am very interested in any actions that will assist with the creation of affordable housing in our community.