



**Community
Development
Partners**

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 Community Development Partners (CDP) 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.

CDP is a mission-driven social benefit corporation working to provide affordable housing solutions statewide.

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 because these financing tools work statewide.

CDP is working on LIFT and PSH projects across Oregon, including:

- Portland - Nesika Illahee Apartments, 59 LIFT financed units completed in December 2020
- Portland - Alder House, 30 PSH financed units will begin construction in May 2021
- La Grande - Timber Ridge, 104 LIFT financed units will begin construction in June 2021
- St. Helens – St. Helens Apartments, 238 LIFT financed units will begin construction in October 2021
- Salem - Gateway Apartments, 184 proposed units, applied to OHCS for LIFT financing in March 2021

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 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,

Jessica Woodruff
Director of Development