



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5505
Joint Committee Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital
Construction
April 9, 2021**

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

My name is Peter Hainley and I am Executive Director of CASA of Oregon. CASA is a nonprofit community development organization that works throughout Oregon to support thriving communities. We work with local nonprofits, housing authorities, governments and communities to help meet the housing needs of families, farmworkers, seniors and the disabled. We also provide asset-building opportunities via individual development accounts and financial inclusion services.

CASA of Oregon would like to offer its support for HB 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.

CASA of Oregon has been working with populations that have been hit hard by the crises of 2020. Farmworkers and residents of manufactured home communities, two key constituencies that benefit from CASA's programs, have had a rough go this last year. HB 5505 supports these populations by making significant investments in housing.

We have created housing using the LIFT program in Woodburn. It is an important funding source that creates both rental and homeownership opportunities, in rural and urban communities alike. More importantly, the program insures that we serve BIPOC communities by giving funding preference to said populations.

CASA is ready to build safe, stable, and affordable homes for rent and for purchase. With additional resources, we can support more of this work and build projects across Oregon. Please support \$250 million to develop new affordable homes across Oregon.

We strongly support the passage of HB 5505 so that organizations like ours can continue to partner with OHCS and work to serve the people of Oregon.

Thank you for your service to the State of Oregon.