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May 7, 2021

Co-Chairs Rep. Girod and Rep. Holvey  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 5534

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

1000 Friends of Oregon supports SB 5534's direction to issue lottery bonds to preserve and maintain existing affordable housing. We support \$100 million for this purpose.

1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit, membership organization that has worked with Oregonians for more than 40 years to support livable urban and rural communities; protect family farms, forests and natural areas; and provide transportation and housing choice. Our work includes ensuring that the promise of Oregon's land use Goal 10, Housing, is implemented inside our cities and towns with policies that both encourage and require needed, diverse, and affordable housing choices for all.

Preserving and maintaining existing affordable housing is one of the most cost-effective ways for the state to ensure all Oregonians have a safe and stable place to call home, and that is why we support this use of lottery funds.

Thousands of affordable apartment homes exist throughout Oregon, in small towns and large cities. These affordable homes have been built through a variety of methods, including by private owners using federal government funding, such as rental assistance to those of low income. In many Oregon communities, these apartment buildings are the only affordable homes available, especially for seniors, people experiencing disabilities, and families just starting out.

The SB 5534 funds will provide for reinvestment in these homes; for example, this will fund roof replacement and safety and habitability repairs, allowing these aging homes to be available for future generations, without raising rents.

We urge your support for the inclusion of \$100 million to preserve and maintain affordable housing in communities across Oregon. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Mary Kyle McCurdy  
Deputy Director