



March 1, 2023

Senator Aaron Woods
Representative David Gomberg
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways and Means, Transportation and Economic Development
Subcommittee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 5511

Dear Co-Chairs Woods, Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

Home Share Oregon urges your support for Senate Bill 5511. This bill, providing over \$1.46 billion, will go a long way towards funding OHCS in order to:

- Reduce unsheltered homelessness this year.
- Rehouse people experiencing homelessness in the longer term.
- Build and preserve more housing units statewide; and
- Increase homeownership.

Oregon's affordable housing crisis is now a humanitarian crisis. These historic investments will make significant progress towards Governor Kotek's annual production target to produce 36,000 housing units per year.

Home Share Oregon is a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase access to affordable housing through the home share program model. Our approach to the housing crisis is to put underutilized housing stock to work in a way that keeps mortgage burdened homeowners in the homes they love, while also providing an affordable place to live for another person. Due to modest funding from OHCS, our organization was able to invest in technology upgrades, education, and outreach campaigns, and hire 3 staff to support clients. In just 1.5 years:

- 896 homeowners registered to rent spare bedrooms for an average of \$735.00 per month (reducing the need for 896 apartments)

- Direct client support was provided to 3,150 individuals at risk of displacement.
- Education campaigns on the home share model reached 1 million Oregonians, creating a grassroots home sharing movement engaging thousands of people across our state and encouraging others to give home sharing a try.
- Home Share Oregon served people in 33 out of 36 counties.

Home Share Oregon has larger goals for the year 2023. We intend to serve 3,000 Oregonians through our home share matching program, enhance and expand our client service to assist more seniors, and continue to expand access to affordable housing through this unique model.

This budget will ensure ongoing funding for programs and services which include affordable rental housing, homeownership, and more and will continue to allow mission driven, community-based nonprofits like ours to help reach the above goals. These all align with the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis which makes it clear the state must invest in the production of new homes and preservation of existing stock.

We urge you to support SB 5511 to fund OHCS, which balances the needs of Oregonians experiencing homelessness by addressing chronic housing supply shortfalls.

Sincerely,

Tess Fields
Executive Director
Home Share Oregon