



March 3, 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:

I write to you today on behalf of Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) **to urge you to support of SB 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.

These historic investments will make significant progress towards Governor Kotek's annual production target to produce 36,000 housing units per year. It took years for Oregon to get into our current housing and homelessness crisis. We're going to need a sustained multi-year commitment to produce the housing supply we need in the next ten years. This budget proposal is an important step in the right direction.

As a community housing development organization who serves residents of Washington County and SW Portland, including providing housing and services for many of our most vulnerable community members who are experiencing homelessness, we understand the impact that a lack of dignified affordable housing can mean for our fellow Oregonians. This budget will ensure ongoing funding for affordable rental housing and homelessness services for mission driven, community-based nonprofits like ours.

The Governor's recommended budget invests \$1.0325 billion in proven supply solutions including OHCS' Local Innovation Fast Track (LIFT) Rental Program, Permanent Supportive Housing, and preservation programs. This proposal also builds on more recent innovations we are excited about including expanding the co-location of early learning and affordable housing developments and establishing a PSH Risk Mitigation Fund to stabilize operating costs and support the longevity of PSH developments. 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.



In addition, investments in homeownership are a critical tool to overcome persistent racial disparities in access to homeownership for households of color. The work of the Joint Task Force Addressing Racial Disparities in Homeownership provides important recommendations that align with these budget recommendations to expand the creation of generational wealth for Communities of Color across Oregon.

The \$415.45 million in the budget for homelessness response and prevention aligns with the Early Session package proposed by Governor Kotek. This early package serves as a “down payment” to expedite coordination between state agencies and local communities to launch emergency responses sooner. The Governor’s recommended budget expands on those early investments to rehouse and maintain housing stability for households moving from unsheltered homelessness into stable housing; provides ongoing homelessness prevention support; maintains shelter operations; and creates new permanent supportive housing.

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

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rachael Duke'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachael Duke, Executive Director
Community Partners for Affordable Housing