



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Carmen Rubio, Commissioner
Dan Ryan, Commissioner
Rene Gonzalez, Commissioner
Mingus Mapps, Commissioner

March 3, 2023

Co-Chair Woods, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

The City of Portland supports SB 5511. SB 5511 will provide critical resources to Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) as we undertake the vital work of addressing our state's housing and homelessness crisis. The City of Portland stands in partnership with the Legislature, OHCS, and the community as we implement these resources.

The Governor's Recommended Budget includes over \$1.46 billion to address housing stability and community prosperity. The City of Portland specifically appreciates inclusion of the following investments.

- \$1.0325 billion for housing supply solutions
- \$770 million in LIFT program Article XI-Q bond funding for affordable homes
- \$415.45 million for homelessness response and prevention
- \$17.6 million for homeownership stabilization and home buyer opportunities
- \$9.4 million for improving access to culturally responsive and rural organizations

While critically important, the existing congregate shelter system, permanent supportive housing, and housing supports in the housing continuum are only able to meet a portion of the homeless community's needs. Many homeless people remain on the streets without access to these housing and other resources. This leaves a visible but largely unserved population of people experiencing homelessness without basic humane services like running water, restrooms, showers, storage, trash service, or protection from the elements, overdosing, violence, fires and so much more.

We encourage the Legislature to also fund the Oregon Mayor's Association \$125 million proposal, of which \$26 million would come to Portland. We would use these funds for three low-barrier, well-staffed, temporary alternative shelter sites complete with services requested by our houseless communities.

As we support this bill, we hope we can further conversations with the state to better align state and local resources to be more responsive to local needs, leverage other federal and local funds to be more efficient, and expedite our affordable housing production. The City of Portland urges your support of Senate Bill 5511.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ted Wheeler

Commissioner Carmen Rubio