



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:

Impact NW 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.

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.

Impact NW has been in the community for nearly 60 years working on our community's most pressing needs. Many of our services are government funded. Our mission is to prevent homelessness. In doing so, we work with 22,000 people a year in the Portland-Vancouver area with stabilizing and strengthening services to keep people housed. Our staff are on the frontlines of the housing and homelessness crisis, and pandemic recovery to help people access services such as housing, rental and energy assistance, other basic needs, and upstream supports so they can thrive.

This budget will ensure ongoing funding for affordable rental housing and homelessness services from mission driven, community-based nonprofits like ours.

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

Sincerely,

Andy Nelson
Executive Director, Impact NW