



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

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

March 07, 2023

Co-Chair Gomberg, Co-Chair Woods, and Members of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

The City of Portland supports HB 5019 -3, the funding package for Governor Kotek's emergency orders on housing.

As the cost of housing continues to rise, more households experience severe cost burdens, displacement, and homelessness. To this point, the City of Portland supports the combined \$33,600,000 in funding for Oregon Eviction Diversion and Prevention and Eviction Prevention Rapid Response programs. Keeping an anticipated 8,750 households statewide housed with these funds represents an upstream solution and cost-effective use of limited state dollars.

The City of Portland also supports the \$85,200,000 allocation for shelter capacity and connections to shelter, rapid rehousing initiatives, capacity support for culturally responsive organizations, and sanitation services in the declared emergency areas. We are also appreciative of the additional \$27,385,000 allocation for these services in the Balance of State Continuum of Care as every corner of our state suffers from the crisis in our streets. County-run shelters play a vital role in connecting much of our diverse homeless population to services and these funds will assist in those efforts.

Though these investments represent a critical down payment on solving our state's homelessness crisis, much more will be needed. Cities will, as you have heard, need direct funding for infrastructure and to subsidize the housing to meet the needs of those at certain income levels. We encourage the Legislature to also consider 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 HB 5019 -3.

Sincerely,

Mayor Ted Wheeler

Commissioner Carmen Rubio