

Submitter: Andria Shinn

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital
Construction

Measure: HB5030

My name is Andria Shinn. I am the Executive Director of Operation Generation, a 501(c)3 nonprofit in McMinnville, OR. I am reaching out to you today to seek your support for the City of McMinnville's legislative funding requests for the Homelessness Response and Third Street Improvement projects. We develop housing solutions in McMinnville, and we have seen first hand the need for funding to ensure that additional affordable housing is completed in our community.

As you all are aware, the need for affordable permanent housing in Oregon is at an emergency level. As members of our community, we provide housing solutions with our own resources and have been working to provide projects that help meet the housing needs here. For projects like ours, it's imperative that capital for construction become available. Without this funding, costs of construction drive up operating costs, which inevitably drive up rents. Organizations similar to ours have responsibly created plans for housing as low as 40-60% AMI that can be sustained long into the future--but we and they are waiting on funding to ensure that those affordability rates can be met for residents.

Here in McMinnville, we are seeing our stable income families and individuals getting priced out of their own housing markets. Also, families who have enough money to afford housing are unable to find anything available to rent. Wait lists for housing availability in our area are as much as two years out in some cases. It is unprecedented to have elderly individuals on fixed income and single-income families being displaced from housing in our community--and yet here we are. We are confident that we are able to offer solutions to these issues when capital funding becomes available.

Funding like this is literally life-giving to residents like ours, who are seeking affordability in their housing markets. Thank you for your time and consideration in providing this relief. We look forward to being one of many community members who partner in this effort.