



**Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair, Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair**

900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for the City of Eugene's Crow Road Housing Project

Dear Senator Girod and Representative Holvey;

As a non-profit organization working to address Lane County's housing crisis, Better Housing Together enthusiastically supports the City of Eugene's request for state funds for the Crow Road Housing Project.

Eugene will need to produce an average of 1,200 housing units a year to support its expected population growth and alleviate a housing shortage, according to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. Supporting new housing in the Crow Road area is a critical step toward meeting these needs.

Currently, Eugene is one of the most rent-burdened communities in Oregon, with 31% of households spending more than half of their income on rent, and our per capita rate of homelessness is staggering. High housing costs and low vacancy rates create a housing crisis at the household and community scale.

The City's request for \$3.5 million in funding from the state for this project will help address critical housing needs and support new housing in an area of southwest Eugene with nearby access to open space, goods and services, and frequent transit. It is estimated this largely undeveloped area can contribute 1,260 housing units and over 850 jobs to the region.

Currently, the Crow Road area is not served by wastewater or water infrastructure. The requested state funding would help deliver wastewater service to West 11th Avenue and Crow Road and adjacent areas, widen Crow Road to support walking and biking, and install potable water facilities. Funding support for housing infrastructure is key to meeting supply goals.

Collaboration between state and local governments is needed to meet our community's housing needs, and we appreciate your consideration of this important project. Better Housing Together wholeheartedly supports the City of Eugene's request to the Joint Ways and Means-Capital Construction Sub-Committee for the Crow Road Housing Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaarin Knudson".

Kaarin Knudson, AIA
Founding Director, Better Housing Together