



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 16, 2024

To: **Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction Co-Chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Holvey, Committee members Sen. Frederick, Sen. Hansell, Sen. Steiner, Sen. Wagner, Rep. Helfrich, Rep. Nathanson, Rep. Rayfield, Rep. Smith**

Re: **HB 5201 – \$30 million for Affordable Housing Preservation in HB 5201 – Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes that persons who are unable to work or whose earnings are inadequate or for whom jobs are not available have the right to an income and/or services to meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and access to health care.

The League urges you to allocate \$30 million in lottery-backed bond revenue in order to preserve existing affordable housing across the state. There is widespread recognition of Oregon’s housing shortage, particularly for very low-income households. Nearly 5,000 units of regulated affordable housing will lose their affordability restrictions in the next five years, forcing even more Oregonians into homelessness or housing instability.

Preservation is an extremely cost-effective and efficient approach to addressing the housing crisis. At an average cost of \$72,000 per unit, we can keep people in their homes and ensure those units are available for future residents.

Preservation dollars can also be used to protect manufactured home park residents. During the 2021-23 biennium, 69 manufactured housing parks with a total of 3,665 homes were put up for sale. Due to scarce funding, only seven of those parks were preserved as affordable housing.

Thirty million dollars is only a small portion of the \$200 million per biennium Oregon Housing and Community Services estimates it would take to preserve all the units in Oregon that are at risk. It will, however, protect affordability for 400 homes and keep those families and individuals from losing their housing.

Thank you for considering this urgent request for preservation funding through lottery bond revenue in HB 5201 and for the opportunity to discuss this issue.

Rebecca Gladstone
Co- President LWVOR

Jean Pierce
Social Policy
Coordinator

Debbie Aiona
Housing Portfolio

Nancy Donovan
Housing Portfolio