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*Erica Mills -
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*Hai Nguyen - East
County Housing (CDC
of Oregon)*

*Sheila Stiley - NW
Coastal Housing*

Co-Chair Rep. Paul Holvey & Sen. Girod
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital
Construction
900 Court St. NE H-277
Salem, OR 97301

March 5, 2024

Dear Senator Girod, Representative Holvey, and Members of the
Subcommittee on Capital Construction

As a mission-driven, member-based trade association comprising
over 90 dedicated affordable housing developers and allies, Housing
Oregon has been advocating for and supporting the development of
affordable housing across our state. We urge you to consider a
dedicated investment of \$5M-\$15M towards building affordable
homes for homeownership under HB 5203.

Homeownership represents more than a roof over one's head; it's a
cornerstone of stability and security for Oregon's families. The
proposed funding will serve as crucial gap financing, enabling
shovel-ready projects to break ground across the state. Developers
like Habitat for Humanity, ProudGround, and Rooted Homes are
poised to turn these investments into tangible outcomes—homes
sold at nearly half the market rate, directly addressing the
affordability crisis and making the dream of homeownership a reality
for many who are currently sidelined in our housing market.

The absence of this timely support risks not only the delay of critical
housing projects but the potential loss of affordable homeownership
opportunities in areas desperately needing them:

- Bay City, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Eugene, Joseph, La Grande, McMinnville, Madras, Prineville and many more across Oregon stand to benefit significantly from this initiative.

Let's not miss this pivotal opportunity to generate hundreds of new, affordable homes in communities across our state, reflecting our shared commitment to the well-being and prosperity of every Oregonian.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cronin
Director of Policy & Advocacy
Housing Oregon