

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction Oregon State Capitol 900 Court
St NE Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for LIFT Homeownership investments in SB 5505

April 17 2024

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse, and Members of the committee: My name is Lisa] and I am writing as a prospective homebuyer to express my strong support for the LIFT Homeownership investments included in SB 5505.

As a survivor of the devastating 2020 Alameda Labor Day fires that left me homeless, I have a personal stake in the success of the LIFT program. After losing my home in the fire, I spent time displaced and homeless. Now, at 57 years old and facing retirement, I am trying to become a homeowner in the "Breath of Life" project being developed in Southern Oregon with LIFT funding.

The LIFT Homeownership Program directly supports three key priorities of the Statewide Housing Plan: Rural Communities, Homeownership, and Housing Justice. For someone like me who was on disability for decades and now earns below the median income, this program creates a pathway to homeownership that would otherwise be impossible.

What makes the LIFT-funded "Breath of Life" project exceptional is that it provides modern, solar-powered, energy-efficient, fire-resistant housing that remains affordable. The fire-resistant aspect is particularly meaningful to me given my experience. All homes built under this program meet strict energy efficiency standards, which will help me manage costs as I age.

I urge you to continue funding the LIFT program and encourage developers to create more affordable housing projects for community members in need. This investment will further expand the pipeline of permanently affordable homeownership opportunities for lower-earning residents like me who are working to rebuild their lives.

Sincerely

Lisa