



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

April 17, 2025

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

Re: Support for HB 5505 and housing investments

Co-Chairs Nosse and Girod, and Members of the Committee:

As Oregon continues to face significant housing challenges, the Oregon Legislature has an opportunity to take crucial steps toward addressing our housing crisis through production, support services, and preservation. We, the Housing Advisory Committee for Washington County, is composed of community members, with diverse professional and lived experiences, such as finance, real estate, architecture, and persons assisted by the Housing Authority. Members advise the Housing Authority Board of Directors in Washington County on policy matters, identifies housing issues, and recommends programs and services.

We recognize how important state partnership is in this effort – particularly as our local funding source, the Metro Affordable Housing Bond, has been fully leveraged to build over 1,500 new units across our county. We urge your support of HB 5505, specifically the investments in the construction of new, affordable housing:

- \$704 million to support LIFT Rental, a nationally awarded program to construct new homes across the state. Our community has leveraged this resource with local funds to support over 800 new units across the county.
- \$100 million to develop new homes for purchase through LIFT Homeownership.
- \$80.7 million to build permanent supportive housing (PSH), a proven strategy to end homelessness for those most vulnerable. Vital to the success of PSH is the wrap around services and rental assistance, which investments are included in HB 5011 (POPs 515 and 516). This approach exists in our community, but we need state support to expanding PSH, including in more rural communities like Forest Grove.
- Private Activity Bonds are a vital federal resource that supports affordable housing development. We support the Legislature dedicating \$450 million in PAB to support affordable housing and help developments better leverage federal tax credit financing.

We, as representatives of the Housing Advisory Committee, urge your support of HB 5505 and needed investments in expanding housing opportunity across the state.

Sincerely,
Melinda Bell, Chair
Ryan Cain, Vice Chair

Housing Services Department • Executive Division

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Members of the Washington County Housing Advisory Committee

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