

Submitter: Nikolai Ursin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or SB5505  
Topic:

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

I am an affordable housing developer based in Multnomah County writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 5505, which authorizes critical bonding to fund affordable housing initiatives across our state.

As someone deeply involved in developing housing solutions, I witness daily the escalating crisis of homelessness and housing insecurity affecting our communities. The lack of affordable housing options has reached a tipping point, exacerbated by insufficient federal intervention and support. This crisis is not just a statistic; it's a reality that affects families, veterans, seniors, and children who lack a safe and stable place to call home.

SB 5505 proposes significant investments in affordable housing through the issuance of general obligation bonds. These funds are essential for programs like the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) initiative, which has a proven track record of creating affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for low-income Oregonians. By allocating resources to such programs, we can accelerate the development of housing units that are desperately needed.

Moreover, the bill's emphasis on funding supportive housing is crucial. Integrating housing with services such as mental health care, addiction treatment, and employment support addresses the root causes of homelessness and promotes long-term stability for individuals and families.

In the absence of adequate federal action, it is imperative that our state takes the lead in addressing this crisis. SB 5505 represents a proactive and necessary step toward ensuring that all Oregonians have access to safe, affordable, and stable housing.

I urge you to pass SB 5505 and affirm Oregon's commitment to tackling the housing crisis head-on.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nikolai Ursin