

TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR



April 16, 2025

Co-Chairs Senator Kate Lieber and Representative Tawna Sanchez
Co-Vice-Chairs Senator Fred Girod, Representatives David Gomberg and Greg Smith
and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Letter of Support for Governor's Housing Budget and Priority Bills

Dear Co-Chairs, Lieber and Sanchez, Co-Vice-Chairs Girod, Gomberg and Smith, and Members of the Committee:

The Racial Justice Council advises the Governor and provides communities that have been historically excluded from decision-making tables more meaningful access to and a voice in the policy making that directly impacts the lives of Oregonians of color.

The Racial Justice Council is writing to express its strong support for the housing-related items in Governor Kotek's recommended budget for 2025. The Governor's commitment to addressing the housing crisis in Oregon through strategic investments is timely and necessary. We believe these initiatives will have a profound impact on the lives of countless residents and the overall well-being of our communities.

Specifically, we would like to highlight our support for the following housing budget and policy items for their impact on equitable housing access for communities of color:

1. Homelessness Prevention and Support Services, Tenant Rights and Shelter (\$933 million)
 - a. Preventing and Ending Homelessness
 - i. Maintain Homelessness Response System and Outcomes
 - ii. Housing Infrastructure and Innovation
 - iii. Housing Stabilization for People Transitioning from State Systems
 - iv. Prevent Loss of Current Affordable Housing
 - v. Homelessness Response and Accountability
2. New Housing Production (\$1.06 billion)
 - a. Affordable rental housing and permanent supportive housing
 - i. Homeownership



- ii. Infrastructure for housing development
 - iii. Housing Production System Improvements
3. Governor's Housing Policies with Racial Equity Impacts:
- a. Homelessness Prevention and Support Services, including Shelters
 - i. HB3644: Establish permanent state shelter program infrastructure in state statute.
 - ii. HB 2139: Establish permanent Tribal housing grant program in state statute.
 - iii. SB 814: Expand access to long term rent assistance for youth leaving the Oregon Youth Authority facilities.
4. Housing Production and Infrastructure and Innovation
- i. HB 3031: Establish a program that funds water, wastewater, stormwater, and transportation infrastructure needed for new housing production.
 - ii. HB 2138: Policy changes to legalize thousands of additional middle housing units.

The housing crisis in Oregon is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and the Governor's budget reflects a clear understanding of the urgency and scale of this issue. By prioritizing these critical investments, she is taking meaningful steps to create a more equitable and prosperous future for all residents.

We urge the Legislature to support these housing budget items and want to work with you to pass a budget that prioritizes the needs of our communities. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to addressing this vital issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional support or information to advance these priorities.

On Behalf of the Racial Justice Council,

Maria Elena Guerra - Racial Justice Council Member
Kim McCarty - Racial Justice Council Member