



May 2, 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 5506

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

Local communities need your help. Across the state, and here in Washington County, families are falling through the cracks as their rent and cost of living rise while their incomes are not keeping up. The Oregon Legislature has been a proven partner to local communities year over year, and we urge you to continue that partnership and support the housing investments included in HB 5506 and the Governor's Recommended Budget.

Addressing Homelessness (Permanent Supportive Housing)

While we must work to increase housing units across the state, not every person can be successful without financial assistance and wrap around services. This is particularly true for community members experiencing. Permanent supportive housing (PSH) is a nationally proven program to help the hardest to house find the support they need to thrive inside. Washington County encourages at least a \$80 million bond investment to build PSH and support for the operational investments in HB 5011 (POPs 513, 515, and 516).

Affordable Housing (LIFT Rental)

The Legislature understand the impact of our insufficient housing stock on low-income Oregonians. LIFT has been a key program supporting over 7,600 units across the state, and we are thrilled to see a proposed \$704 million in the LIFT Rental program. In Washington County, more than 8 affordable housing developments have been supported with LIFT funds. While the Metro Affordable Housing Bond has been fully subscribed in our community, LIFT is our hope to continue to bring new, affordable homes to those in need.

Homeownership (LIFT Homeownership)

Too many of Oregonians face a reality in which homeownership is out of reach. State investments can help families achieve that American dream and build generational wealth that will act as a safety net for their children and grandchildren. HB 5506 includes over \$100 million to construct new homes for purchase across our state through LIFT Homeownership, a proven program that supports organizations like Habitat for Humanity to bring the American dream to thousands across the state.

We urge your support of HB 5506.

Thank you,

Carly Sylva-Gabrielson

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Government Relations Manager, Washington County