



May 9, 2025

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

Re: Support for Empire District Revitalization Project – SB 5531

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Southern Oregon Coast Regional Housing (SOCRH), I write to express our strong support for the Empire District Revitalization Project included in SB 5531.

This \$32.5 million investment represents transformational potential for the Southern Oregon Coast—not only as a development project but as a model for how rural communities can integrate shelter, rental, and homeownership into a cohesive and service-connected neighborhood. The project will accelerate the buildout of a full housing continuum in Coos Bay's Empire District, creating a visible, replicable pipeline from crisis to stability.

This initiative is a direct extension of the SPARC Network (Service Providers and Regional Connections), a growing regional collaboration aligning housing and services to better serve our residents. The funding will support predevelopment efforts to revitalize the Woodland Apartments, prepare a new site for permanently affordable homeownership, and create a foundation for Hope Village—our transitional tiny home shelter.

Together, these efforts will bring forward a bold, community-driven solution to address housing instability, expand opportunity, and spark equitable revitalization in one of Oregon's most underserved regions. We urge your full support of this essential investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Hadley".

Stephanie Hadley
Executive Director
Southern Oregon Coast Regional Housing

SOCRH
PO Box 37
North Bend, OR 97459
541.290.8970