



May 9, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capitol Construction  
900 Court St NE, HR F  
Salem, OR 97301

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

During the May 9, 2025 Capitol Construction Public Hearing on Senate Bill 5531, we showcased the City of Portland's request for \$22 M to complete 460 affordable- and middle-income units of housing in the new Broadway Corridor neighborhood in Portland. This once in a generation initiative that will catalyze the creation of a new neighborhood, ultimately set to deliver 2,400 units of housing, creating 4,000 jobs, and driving sustained economic growth in the city's core.

State investment at this stage is critical to move the project into vertical construction, putting cranes in the air, generating hundreds of construction jobs, and delivering more than hundreds of new homes to our cooks, teachers, truck drivers and more within the next two years. With your continued partnership, the Broadway Corridor will provide urgently needed housing, support Portland's economic recovery, and stand as a visible testament that Portland is open for business and bullish about revitalizing the city.

Help for Broadway Corridor is the City of Portland's only direct request from lottery bonds. There are, however, other important items on the table we want to highlight. We have been strong supporters of the work to create the Housing Infrastructure Site Readiness program as outlined in HB 3031 and the request to see the newly established Housing Infrastructure and Site Readiness Project Fund with \$100 million in lottery bond revenue. This approach to supporting communities build the public infrastructure needed to support new housing projects will prioritize flexibility, equity, and strategic investment over direct allocations to individual projects, allowing the State to better align infrastructure funding with community needs and statewide housing production goals. By investing in critical infrastructure, these funds will enable local governments to unlock sites for housing development and accelerate the delivery of much needed housing for Oregonians across various income levels.

Finally, we want to recognize the investments in affordable housing preservation included in Section 8 of the base bill. While it is essential to continue building new affordable homes, we cannot meet our housing goals if we fail to protect the assets we already have. Preserving Oregon's existing affordable housing stock, much of which is at risk of loss, is a critical strategy to maintain stability for thousands of residents and safeguard past public investments.

The 2025 legislative session is a pivotal moment in our ongoing, collective efforts to address the housing and homelessness crises in Oregon and expand access to housing to ensure more Oregonians have a safe, stable place to call home. With sustained focus on these urgent needs, we can continue building momentum. Thank you for being a partner in helping our communities meet the growing demand for housing.

Sincerely,

Keith Wilson, Mayor

Elana Pirtle Guiney, Council President