

Submitter: Scott Nordquist  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or SB5702  
Topic:

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse, and members of the committee,

I'm writing as someone who lives in Central Oregon and sees the housing crisis play out every day. Please allocate \$100 million in General Obligation Bonds for the LIFT Homeownership Program in Senate Bill 5702.

People here simply can't afford to live where they work anymore. Teachers, nurses, restaurant staff, construction workers — the people who keep this place running — are commuting from other towns or leaving the region altogether. Some businesses are cutting hours or closing because they can't hire and keep staff. It's not abstract. It's happening now.

More than half of Bend's workforce commutes in from outside the city. That means longer days for families, more traffic, more strain on everything. It also means our community feels less stable than it used to.

LIFT is one of the few tools that actually helps create homes that stay affordable for the long haul. These homes aren't flipping at market rate in a few years. Many are structured to remain affordable for future buyers, so one public investment keeps working over time. That matters.

We have projects ready to go in our region. With LIFT funding, we can build now. A \$100 million investment could mean around 500 homes across the state — real homes for real people who are already part of our communities.

We are behind. Everyone knows it. If we want teachers in our schools, nurses in our clinics, and small businesses that can stay open, we have to make it possible for people to live here.

Please include \$100 million for LIFT Homeownership in SB 5702.

Thank you for your consideration.