

Submitter: Lucinda Taylor
On Behalf Of: Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5702

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

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County, I call on the Legislature to allocate an additional \$100M in General Obligation Bonds for the LIFT Homeownership Program in Senate Bill 5702. Through LIFT Homeownership, GO Bonds rapidly spur housing construction across the state. This is housing that will go to families who are ready for homeownership, and ready to put down roots in communities across the state.

LIFT Homeownership has been widely successful. These projects create stable and permanently affordable housing, support construction jobs and contribute to a growing tax base. There are shovel-ready housing development projects in the following locations that could stall-out without additional LIFT funds: Albany, Bend (2 projects), Blue River, Coos Bay, Eugene (2 projects), Grants Pass, Hood River, La Pine, Lincoln City, Madras, McMinnville, Milwaukie, Phoenix, Portland metro (multiple projects), Prineville, Redmond (2 projects), Riddle, Scappoose, Springfield (2 projects), The Dalles (2 projects), and Tillamook County.

Prior to LIFT for Homeownership, our Habitat affiliate struggled to produce 1 home every 20 months. Since accessing LIFT in 2020, we've completed 3 homes and have 3 more that will be sold to low-income households this year, decreasing the average time of production to 12 months. If successful with our 2026 application, we'll embark on our largest project yet, constructing 17 modular homes over the course of 2 years, allowing even more families to achieve stability and focus on their families, careers, education, and community.

Every \$1M in LIFT supports the construction of 5 new homes. With an additional \$100M we could see 500 more new homes built across the state. Please fund this proven program, and make first-time homeownership a reality for mortgage-ready families throughout Oregon.

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

Sincerely,
Lucinda Taylor, Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County