

Submitter: Destiny Sargent
On Behalf Of: RootedHomes
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,

My name is Destiny Sargent, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of RootedHomes in strong support of Senate Bill 5702 and the allocation of 100 million dollars in General Obligation Bonds for the LIFT Homeownership Program.

Affordable homeownership is essential to the long term health and stability of Central Oregon communities. Many of the people who keep our region running including teachers, health care workers, service workers, and tradespeople can no longer afford to live where they work. Rising housing costs have increased commute times, strained families, and weakened community stability.

The LIFT Homeownership Program is one of Oregon's most effective tools for creating permanently affordable homes for first time buyers. LIFT funded homes often remain affordable long term through community land trusts and similar models, allowing a single public investment to benefit multiple households over time.

Affordable homeownership developers in Central Oregon have shovel ready projects waiting to move forward. Each one million dollars invested through LIFT supports approximately five new homes and leverages additional local and private funding. A 100 million dollar investment would help create roughly 500 permanently affordable homes statewide.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to include 100 million dollars for LIFT Homeownership in Senate Bill 5702 and ensure that Central Oregon communities are fully included in the statewide response to Oregon's housing shortage.

Sincerely,
Destiny Sargent
RootedHomes Central Oregon