

Submitter: Susan Makris
On Behalf Of: LIFT Homeownership
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or SB5702
Topic:
RE: Bonds for LIFT Homeownership

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

I am writing as a Central Oregon resident to urge the Legislature to allocate \$100 million in General Obligation Bonds for the LIFT Homeownership Program in Senate Bill 5702.

Affordable homeownership is essential to the long-term health of our region. In Central Oregon, many of the people who keep our communities running — teachers, health care workers, service workers, and tradespeople, can no longer afford to live where they work. It also directly impacts my family's ability to work in, and support, the Bend community, being an employee of an organization that builds affordable housing.

LIFT Homeownership is one of Oregon's most effective tools for creating permanently affordable homes for first-time buyers. These are not one-time investments. Many LIFT-supported homes are placed in community land trusts or structured to remain affordable long term, serving multiple income-qualified buyers over time. A single public investment can support generation after generation of homeowners, creating lasting community assets rather than temporary relief. If our organization is not able to receive LIFT funding, our projects aren't able to move forward and I would be out of a job.

My job is essential to addressing Oregon's housing production gap. We are significantly behind in meeting demand, and catching up requires bold, targeted action. LIFT represents a long-term capital investment in stable communities, workforce retention, and generational opportunity.

Please include \$100 million for LIFT Homeownership in SB 5702 and ensure that Central Oregon communities are not left behind in the statewide response to our housing shortage.