

Submitter: Steve Stevens

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 am writing as a Central Oregon resident who witnesses the impacts of our housing crisis every day. I respectfully urge you to allocate \$100 million in General Obligation Bonds for the LIFT Homeownership Program in Senate Bill 5702.

In our region, working families can no longer afford to live in the communities they serve. Teachers, nurses, hospitality workers, tradespeople, and first responders are commuting long distances or leaving Central Oregon altogether. Local businesses are struggling to hire and retain staff, in some cases reducing hours or closing entirely. This is not a future concern — it is already happening.

More than half of Bend's workforce commutes from outside the city. These long commutes place strain on families, infrastructure, and employers while weakening the stability of our community.

The LIFT Homeownership Program is one of the most effective tools we have to create permanently affordable homes. These homes are designed to remain affordable for future buyers, ensuring that a single public investment continues to benefit families for generations. This long-term impact is critical.

Projects in our region are ready to move forward. With LIFT funding, we can begin building immediately. A \$100 million investment could support approximately 500 homes statewide — providing stable homeownership opportunities for people who already live and work in our communities.

Oregon's housing shortage requires bold, strategic action. Investing in LIFT will help ensure that our schools, healthcare facilities, and local businesses have the workforce they depend on by making homeownership attainable.

I respectfully ask you to include \$100 million for the LIFT Homeownership Program in SB 5702.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Steve Stevens

Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity
Bend, Oregon