



February 13, 2026

Testimony in favor of SB 5702

Co-Chairs Girod and Nosse and Members of the Committee:

I ask your support for SB 5702 and specifically for the allocation of \$100m for the LIFT Homeownership program.

I am one of the co-founders of SquareOne Villages, a non-profit in Lane County that has become known for our innovative housing model using multi-family housing cooperatives for low-income households as an alternative to the more traditional rental model. This model of housing offers greater control and stability to residents compared to rental and provides a pathway to homeownership to households who otherwise can only afford rental. In 2025, the LIFT Homeownership (LIFT HO) program was restructured to allow this model of housing. Our RosaVillage Co-op recently became the first cooperatively owned housing to receive a LIFT award.

While this is good news, the bad news is that the inclusion of housing co-ops along with other changes made in the LIFT Homeownership program has resulted in a dramatic increase in applications to LIFT HO nearly 5 times of the amount available. This shortfall means that without additional funding, more than \$100m of shovel-ready projects will not get built. Just to cite our example, SOV has two projects in the pipeline with a combined 95 units at a cost of \$15m in additional funding. If the full amount for both projects were awarded to SOV, that would consume 42% of the available \$37.5m for LIFT HO. There are many more worthy projects around the state equally deserving such funding.

Fundamentally, we believe that home ownership offers significantly better outcomes and greater stability for Oregon households. It only makes sense, therefore, to put more funding into the LIFT HO program so that more Oregonians can benefit from home ownership. Please support the \$100m in SB 5702 for the LIFT HO program.

Thank you,

Dan Bryant
Director of Public Advocacy
SquareOne Villages