



DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

February 13, 2026

Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for LIFT Homeownership in SB 5702

Co-Chair Nosse, Co-Chair Girod and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen Saxe and I work at DevNW, an affordable housing development and asset-building agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion, Polk and Clackamas Counties.

I urge your **support for \$100m in GO Bonds for the LIFT Homeownership program.**

LIFT Homeownership is widely successful, spurring the creation of over 1,200 new affordable homes for ownership throughout Oregon. From rural, to suburban to urban communities, these projects support construction jobs, contribute to a growing tax base and create permanently affordable homes. Homes produced with these funds often sell for 50% of the local median sales price, unlocking the stability and wealth-building that comes from homeownership for low- and moderate-income families who are otherwise priced out in today's housing market.

At DevNW, we've created over 90 new homes for ownership over the last few years, with another 25 in current construction and almost 70 in projects ready to seek funding. And, we are not alone. There are affordable homeownership developers across the state with projects ready for funding—they have site control, site plans, and lined up their capital stack, typically a mix of federal, local and private resources, to leverage LIFT Homeownership funding as the final piece to move forward.

Current project intake data from OHCS demonstrates there are over \$114m in applications for projects across the state seeking LIFT funding in 2026, and pipeline data shows sustained need for the remainder of the biennium. Without additional resources, projects from Albany to Bend to Eugene to Prineville to Tillamook could stall-out.

Every \$1m in LIFT supports the construction of 5 new homes, and we know that any additional allocation will

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be fully utilized.

Thank you for all of your work to make homeownership a reality for our communities and we urge your support to include LIFT Homeownership in SB 5702.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KS", written over a faint horizontal line.

Karen Saxe
Director of Policy, Advocacy and Strategic Relationships
DevNW

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