



February 13, 2026
Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Bonds for LIFT Homeownership

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

On behalf of Proud Ground, I call on the Legislature to allocate an additional \$100M in General Obligation Bonds for the LIFT Homeownership Program in Senate Bill 5702. Through LIFT Homeownership, GO Bonds rapidly spur housing construction across the state. This is housing that will go to families who are ready for homeownership, and ready to put down roots in communities across the state. As a nonprofit Community Land Trust serving Oregon homebuyers, we see every day how access to affordable, sustainable homeownership transforms lives, strengthens neighborhoods, and builds long-term stability.

LIFT Homeownership has been widely successful. These projects create stable and permanently affordable housing, support construction jobs and contribute to a growing tax base. In addition to our current projects under construction and our development pipeline, there are over 25 shovel-ready housing development projects throughout the state that would benefit from the additional support to the LIFT Homeownership Program that Senate Bill 5702 could create.

Homeownership remains one of the most effective pathways to financial security and intergenerational opportunity. Yet first-time and first-generation buyers face unprecedented barriers — including high home prices, elevated interest rates, limited supply, and difficulty saving for a down payment. At Proud Ground, every buyer completes HUD-certified homebuyer education and receives individualized support to promote long-term housing stability. Many of the households served are first-generation buyers and families who have historically faced systemic barriers to homeownership.

Dreams Start Here.

5288 N INTERSTATE AVE., PORTLAND, OREGON 97217, 503.493.0293, www.proudground.org



Every \$1M in LIFT supports the construction of 5 new homes. With an additional \$100M we could see 500 more new homes built across the state. Please fund this proven program, and make first-time homeownership a reality for mortgage-ready families throughout Oregon.

Please include \$100M for LIFT Homeownership in SB 5702.

Sincerely,

Dominique Merriweather
Executive Director
Proud Ground

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