

RE: SB 5701

Co-Chairs and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Alicia DeLashmutt. I am the founder of Our Home, Inclusive Community Collaborative and Cathedral Park Cohousing, and I am a mother.

My daughter Neva is a young woman who loves basketball, Fritos, and opera. She also experiences Mowat-Wilson syndrome, a rare genetic condition with widespread impacts and life-long complex care needs. For 24 years, I have worked as a disability inclusion and housing advocate because of what Neva—and thousands of our kids and Oregonians like her—deserve: a stable, affordable home, in a safe community, with the supports that she needs for survival and neighbors who know and look out for her, so that she can not just survive, but thrive.

That is exactly what Cathedral Park Cohousing is designed to be.

This 23-unit, universally-designed, mixed-income homeownership development, with 11 units subsidized to make them affordable to workforce housing, is 90% funded. We have a site, a development team, committed pre-sales, the support of local private foundations and OHCS, and a strong community rallying around us. We need \$1.4 million to achieve our affordability goal of 11 units of workforce housing and break ground. Without a capital investment now, we lose our ~\$2 million OHCS LIFT commitment. Years of work and millions in public and private investment disappear. The project and a shining example of mixed income homeownership housing that includes an at risk population will unravel and die.

With this project, Oregon will become the first state in the nation to demonstrate this asked for model— a mixed income, self-sustaining, community with permanently affordable units, and people with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities as full neighbors.

We are grateful to Representative Isadore for championing this request. I ask this committee to appropriate \$1.4 million to OHICC's Cathedral Park Cohousing in the 2026 Legislative Session.

We are so close. Please help us bring this innovative model forward into existence for families like ours and Oregonians like Neva. Please help bring us all home.

Thank you for your consideration of support.

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