



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

March 26, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 5011 and the Governor's Recommended Housing Investments

Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg, and Members of the Committee,

Local communities need your help. Across the state, and here in my community, families are falling through the cracks as their rent and cost of living rise while their incomes are not keeping up. The Oregon Legislature has been a proven partner to local communities year over year, and I urge you to continue that partnership and support HB 5011 and the Governor's Recommended Budget.

Homelessness Investments

The front door into our housing system is through our homeless services continuum of care. State investments have helped thousands avoid homelessness, added shelter beds to our system, and have ended homelessness for hundreds in our community. We can't risk losing ground. Please continue these efforts (POPs 501, 502, and 503), expand our ability to stop the inflow into homelessness (POPs 504 and 505), and create more permanent supportive housing to help those most vulnerable (POPs 513, 515, and 516).

Affordable Housing Investments

While housing alone won't end homelessness, the lack of affordable housing is driving many in our community to experience housing instability. POPs 515 invests hundreds of millions of dollars in affordable housing production that can bring homes to communities across the state with the Local Innovation Fast Track (LIFT) program. In addition, POP 519 can help preserve affordable homes, so we don't lose progress on addressing the supply gap.

Homeownership Investments

Too many of my constituents have shared that homeownership is out of reach. State investments can help families achieve that American dream and build generational wealth that will act as a safety net for their children and grandchildren. POP 518 can help organizations like Habitat for

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Humanity create new homes, and assistance in POPs 522 and 521 create additional resources for down payment assistance.

I urge your support of HB 5011 and a continued partnership with local leaders.

Thank you,

Kathryn Harrington
Chair, Washington County Commission
Chair, Housing Authority of Washington County

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