



March 12, 2025

Senator Khanh Pham
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Senate Bill 50-1

Dear Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of The Oregon Housing Alliance to urge your support for SB 50 with the -1 Amendment. SB 50-1 provides dedicated Local Innovation and Fast Track Housing Program Fund (LIFT) funding to support public housing authorities and nonprofits in the acquisition of recently built, market rate housing to convert to affordable housing. This represents an incredibly efficient use of public funds for affordable housing by leveraging the existing housing market.

LIFT can be used for acquisitions, but the process is complicated and cumbersome, often too slow for the private market. SB 50-1 simplifies these acquisitions with dedicated funding and leverages our existing Oregon Centralized Application (ORCA) process so that acquisitions can be completed more quickly. This means the affordable housing we sorely need is made available sooner.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of over 100 member organizations, including tenant organizations; affordable housing developers and operators; social service providers and shelter operators; Community Action Agencies; Public Housing Authorities; housing industry businesses and professionals; city and county governments; and community-based nonprofits and advocacy groups. We are dedicated to increasing housing opportunities for Oregonians. We believe that everyone deserves a safe, stable and affordable home.

We ask you to support SB 50-1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebekah Markillie".

Rebekah Markillie
Oregon Housing Alliance
rmarkillie@neighborhoodpartnerships.org