

**Testimony of Kyung Park, State Affairs Advisor**

**Testimony on HB 3031**

**House Committee on Housing and Homelessness**

**Feb 28, 2025**



Metro is the elected regional government that serves nearly 1.7 million people in the 24 cities and three counties of the Portland metropolitan area. We provide a broad range of public services that include land use and transportation planning, solid waste and recycling operations, housing and homeless services, management of parks and natural areas, and operation of major visitor facilities like the Oregon Convention Center and the Oregon Zoo. In 2018, Metro voters approved an affordable housing bond that has generated over \$700 million and on track to build over 5100 homes.

Investments in infrastructure advances state and local goals of accelerating housing production. It provides flexibility to support a range of housing production strategies. Infrastructure investments can reduce the cost of affordable housing development and mitigate barriers that developers may face on a project. It's common for developers to experience unanticipated infrastructure upgrade requirements in the course of a project and an infrastructure loan fund could help projects address these unexpected needs to avoid costly delays. The creation of a statewide infrastructure fund will increase readiness for our cities to meet the housing needs of our state.

We urge your support for infrastructure funding for housing production.