



Portland Housing Bureau

March 11, 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

Dear Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development

On behalf of the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB), I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 50. This bill will provide dedicated Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) resources for the 2025-27 biennium to support public housing authorities and nonprofits in the acquisition of recently built, market rate housing to convert to affordable housing in the Portland Metro area.

SB 50-1 takes advantage of current market conditions in the Portland Metro area that allow for affordable housing units to be created more quickly and at significantly lower costs. The acquisition of existing, market rate housing for conversion to affordable housing can be significantly faster and less expensive than new construction. While LIFT funds can already be used for acquisitions, SB 50-1 prioritizes them by dedicating funds specifically for that use.

SB 50-1 is a smart use of public funds and responds to the need for affordable housing now. We urge you to support SB 50-1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helmi Hisserich".

Helmi Hisserich, Director