

May 7, 2021

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

My name is Sam Huck and I write to you today on behalf of the Planning Club at Portland State University in support of SB 5534, and the inclusion of \$100 million in Lottery bonds to preserve and maintain existing affordable housing.

Planning club is made up of graduate and undergraduate students at Portland State University. Planning Club's mission is to create a forum for dialogue on current planning issues and encourage and facilitate communication between current students, alumni, and faculty in the Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning, PSU, and the greater Portland community.

All 14 present members of the Portland State University Planning Club students agree that a safe and stable place to call home is a basic human need.

We as a society cannot make the same mistakes we have made in the past, building affordable or public housing, and neglecting to care and maintain those facilities that provide vital homes for our community members.

Affordable units have provided stability, safety, and affordability for area residents for the last thirty-plus years. The people who live in these homes are seniors, people experiencing disabilities, and families. They are our neighbors, and like all our community members deserve safe and healthy buildings to live in.

Today, we have the opportunity to reinvest in these homes and ensure they will be safe and available for the next generation. Just like our schools or hospitals, affordable rentals need regular investments to ensure they stay safe for people to live in. Our investments are needed to replace the roof, make repairs to the exterior of the buildings, or to ensure the safety and habitability of these homes for generations to come. Oregon needs to steward these aging homes for future generations without raising rents.

We urge your support for the inclusion of \$100 million to preserve and maintain affordable housing in communities across Oregon. We also urge the committee to continue to prioritize the allocation of funds for developing affordable housing to help address the housing needs of the state.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Sam Huck

