



Columbia Cascade Housing Corp.

May 6th, 2015

RE: Oregon Housing and Community Services Bond Package

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Read and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposal to build Oregon's future by supporting an historic investment of \$100 million for affordable homes for families with low incomes. I am excited for this opportunity as we continue our work to promote affordable housing solutions throughout our region which includes Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties.

We know that our communities can't succeed without homes. Throughout our region we see our neighbors struggling to find housing opportunities that are affordable. This is undermining our approaches geared toward healthy and vibrant communities. Without a stable, affordable home our children are less likely to learn and achieve excellence in school. Without an affordable home, healthy habits are less likely to take root. Without a diverse housing supply, employers are less likely to attract and retain employees to our region.

Throughout our State we are faced with a lack of affordable homes. There is only one affordable home for every four households managing extremely low incomes. The worst part is that housing costs are continuing to raise forcing choices between basics like food, utilities, health care and child care.

We can help solve this problem by building homes affordable to families with low incomes. In the process, we can strengthen the Mid-Columbia region's communities and boost local economies. The proposed \$100 million housing development bond package will allow us, as a housing developer, to be innovative, flexible and sensitive to our community needs. We look forward to seeing the impact of this capital investment in Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties.

My organization, and our community, like dozens of communities throughout the state, is ready to unleash the ingenuity, innovation and hard work that has defined Oregon for centuries. We can choose to invest in people and create a better future for the next generation. We urge your careful consideration and support for this historic investment in homes for Oregon.

Respectfully,

Joel Madsen
Executive Director

