

5/6/15

Capital Construction Sub-Committee of Ways and Means
Oregon Housing and Community Services Bond Package

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

I am David Zupan, president of Eugene PeaceWorks, a non-profit peace and justice organization here since 1981. We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the proposal to build Oregon's future by supporting a historic investment of \$100 million for affordable homes for families with low incomes.

We know that our communities can't succeed without homes. Opportunity Village, our local temporary housing consisting of very small dwellings for 25 residents around a common kitchen is a huge success but a drop in the bucket compared to the thousands of homeless we are not adequately serving.

Here in Lane County, we see our neighbors who make less than \$24,000 facing homelessness because that is the income needed to rent a one bedroom apartment. Home ownership is out of reach for lower income workers who cannot afford the average home sale price of \$237,800.

We can help solve this problem by building homes affordable to families with low incomes. In the process, we can strengthen Lane County communities, and boost local economies. The proposed \$100 million housing development bond package will allow us our communities to be innovative, flexible and sensitive to our community needs. Statewide, the funds will build an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 new homes, which could affordably house 12,000 to 16,000 people. We look forward to seeing the impact we could have here in Lane County.

My organization, and my 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 of, and support for, this proposed historic investment in homes for Oregon.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

David Zupan, President, Eugene PeaceWorks

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