



May 7, 2015

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 Pegge McGuire, Executive Director of the Fair Housing Council of Oregon. Our mission is to eliminate illegal discrimination in Oregon and to ensure that all Oregonians have equitable access to housing opportunity. I am writing to express my 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. Yet, there is only one affordable home for every four households managing extremely low incomes, forcing choices between basics like food, utilities, health care or medicine, and child care.

We can help solve this problem by building homes affordable to families with low incomes. In the process, we can strengthen Oregon's communities, and boost local economies. The proposed \$100 million housing development bond package will allow housing developers 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 this could have in our state.

My organization is eager to see the expanded access to equal opportunity this funding will support. We must 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pegge McGuire", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Pegge McGuire
Executive Director

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