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May 1, 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:
Oregon Legislature
Salem, Oregon

Re: \$100 Million for Affordable Housing

Dear Chairmen Girod and Read,

I am the Executive Director of Housing Works, the housing authority serving Jefferson, Crook, and Deschutes counties. 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. In Central Oregon, we are facing a shortage of homes that is crippling our community, increasing homelessness and instability, and undermining all of our activities. Children and families are struggling with access to housing, employers are struggling to recruit and retain employees, and our community institutions, including the one I direct, are hard-pressed to help our clients and partners' clients.

We can help solve this problem by building homes affordable to families with low incomes. In the process, we can strengthen Central Oregon'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. 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 Central Oregon.

We would strive to build affordable apartments for low income families, using proceeds from the \$100 million as critical gap funding. This measure will make a significant difference in our ability to deliver on our mission.

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.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TK', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas J. Kemper
Executive Director