



Proven Partners • Thriving Communities • Lasting Value

May 6, 2015

**\$100 Million for Housing:
A vital step toward stability and prosperity for Oregon**

Dear Co-Chairs Read and Girod and members of the Capitol Construction Committee:

We urge you to support the Governor's historic proposal for \$100 million, which would be deployed in 2017 and subsequent years to provide increased housing opportunity for low income families. This new and more flexible funding source will unlock innovation and leverage resources at the local level, while avoiding the major project cost driver of compliance with federal restrictions.

Leaders across Oregon recognize that we cannot meet any of our long-term health or education goals when 20,000 of our children are homeless. It is unacceptable that we have veterans who served our country unable to access a stable place to call home. The estimated total gap across the state is 50,000 homes. Now is the time to take action to increase access to housing for lower-income Oregonians. Now is the time to add housing to the priority list of public infrastructure bond investments, as part of HB 5005.

It will take a variety of policy tools as well as increased resources to tackle our state's housing crisis. We need both long-term and immediate investments to build, rehab and preserve affordable housing of all types – including manufactured homes, multifamily rental housing and single-family homes, and we need to seek out and encourage new, innovative ways to provide housing in rural, urban and suburban communities.

Committing to \$100 million in future bond investment will allow us to build a foundation for stability and success in Oregon. While this new bond investment will not meet all the affordable housing needs in our state, it is an exciting and essential step forward. Oregon ON's members, who have worked for decades to build and rehabilitate homes for low-income Oregonians, stand ready to bring their expertise and creative solutions to help the State make the most of this new, more flexible resource. We urge you to seize this opportunity to significantly increase housing opportunity for low-income Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Miller'.

John Miller
Executive Director