

May 6, 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 Mary Brooks, an interested citizen, living in the Northwest area of Portland. 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 Portland, 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, are hard-pressed to help our neighbors cope. We can help solve this problem by building homes affordable to families with low incomes. In the process, we can strengthen Portland 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 we could have in in Portland.

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,  
Mary Brooks