



May 8, 2015

Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capitol Construction

Sen. Fred Girod, Co-Chair

Rep. Tobias Read, Co-Chair

Sen. Peter Courtney

Sen. Richard Devlin

Rep. Val Hoyle

Rep. John Huffman

Rep. Tina Kotek

Rep. Greg Smith

Shelter Care Supports Oregon Housing and Community Services Bond Package

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

ShelterCare, a private non-profit human services agency in Lane County, urges you to consider robust funding for Oregon Housing and Community Services Department. ShelterCare deeply appreciates the work OHCS does for the low-income and homeless population in Oregon under the leadership of Margaret Van Vliet.

The prolonged recession means that many families and individuals in Lane County are one crisis away from not being able to pay their rent, and many may experience homelessness.

We can help solve this problem by building homes affordable to families with low incomes. In the process, we can strengthen Lane County's communities, and boost our local economy. The proposed \$100 million housing development bond package will allow us, as a housing developer and service provider, 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,

Susan A. Ban
Executive Director
ShelterCare