



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:

My name is Israel Bayer, executive director of Street Roots, a street newspaper working with people experiencing homelessness and poverty in the Portland region.

Street Roots is writing to express 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 short twenty thousand units of affordable housing. This shortage impacts families and seniors, and many more. It means the difference between surviving and thriving, between creating a diverse community and a homogenous one.

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

Our organization and community, like dozens of communities throughout the state, are 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "I. Bayer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Israel Bayer
Executive Director
Street Roots
211 NW Davis St.

Street Roots creates income opportunities for people experiencing homelessness and poverty by producing a newspaper and other media that are catalysts for individual and social change.

Portland, OR 97209

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