



May 7, 2015

Via E-mail

Capital Construction Sub-Committee of Ways and Means
Oregon Housing and Community Services Bond Package
WaysandMeans.CapitalConstructionSub@state.or.us

RE: For May 8, 2015 Hearing, Capital Construction SubCommittee on the Housing Bond Package

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

I am writing on behalf of the Urban League of Portland in support of the Housing Bond Package in order to build Oregon's future by supporting an historic investment of \$100 million for affordable homes for families with low incomes.

The Urban League of Portland is one of the leading organizations representing low income residents and communities of color in Oregon. We engage in affordable housing advocacy on behalf of our constituents and have been at the forefront of campaigns for housing equity in Oregon. We are committed to being an active supporter of this Housing Bond Package because the proposed \$100 million will create funds to build an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 new homes, which could affordably house 12,000 to 16,000 people currently living in poverty. The research in our recently released State of Black Oregon 2015 Report shows that nearly 30 percent of all Black families in Oregon live in poverty.

The creation of new homes also generates new construction and other related jobs, provides stability to school children and their classrooms, allows for more career possibilities near where there are employment opportunities, and encourages local communities to work together to address their unique housing needs. Passing this Housing Bond Package will make a positive difference for healthy families to become more successful members of the community.

The Urban League has been successfully serving low income residents and communities of color in Oregon for over 30 years. We strongly encourage the passing of this Housing Bond Package because it supports the Urban League's interest in advancing the status low income families of color towards a more stable middle class and is an important tool for changing public policies to help us achieve the goals of opportunity, prosperity, and the attainment of self-sufficiency.

We urge you to support this Housing Bond Package. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Midge Purcell".

Midge Purcell
Director of Advocacy and Public Policy
Urban League of Portland