



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:

Washington County, Oregon, strongly supports the proposal to build Oregon's future by supporting a historic investment of \$100 million for affordable homes for families with low incomes. We believe that families and children thrive and prosper when they are stably housed and have access to opportunities to succeed at work, at school, and at life.

We know that vibrant communities cannot succeed without a continuum of housing types and prices. Washington County is a growing and prosperous county—but we lack sufficient housing affordable for low-income families. Our County's 2015-2020 Consolidated Plan estimates that Washington County needs between 14,100 and 24,000 additional affordable units to meet current demand for affordable rental housing. Washington County is not alone in this—cities and counties statewide need additional housing affordable for lower-income households. This \$100 million statewide investment could be a key part of filling this vital gap.

We are excited for the opportunity to partner with local jurisdictions and developers to create housing opportunities for hard working families. This historic \$100 million in state bonds will leverage local resources and boost local economies through local development projects that are innovative, flexible and sensitive to 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 this effort could have in Washington County.

Washington County, like communities across Oregon, is eager to explore new partnerships and find innovative ways to meet the housing needs of all our community members. This investment can strengthen our communities, provide stable housing for families, and help build a better future for our community. We urge your careful consideration of, and support for, this proposed historic investment in homes for Oregon.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Andy Duyck  
Chair, Washington County Board of Commissioners