

From: "Tom Walsh" <partners@tomwalsh.com>
Date: May 7, 2015 at 4:06:22 PM PDT
To: <WaysandMeans.CapitalConstructionSub@state.or.os>
Subject: HCSProposal Housing Bonds

To: Chairman Sen. Fred Girod
Chairman Rep. Tobias Reed
Members of the Sub-Committee on Capital Construction

Fr: Tom Walsh

Re: Bonds to Support Innovative Affordable Housing

I am writing in support of the request for \$100 million in general obligation bonds to spur innovative affordable housing for low-income Oregonians across all portions of our State.

For the past fifty years, I have had the privilege as a builder to work with sponsors of affordable housing in nearly every one of Oregon's 36 counties. I have seen the benefits brought to families, to communities, and to our youngest citizens when the stability of "a place called home" is provided. Assurance replaces doubt, careers take hold, and young people have the opportunity to flourish in school. Being an Oregonian takes on a new level of pride.

As much as we have seen considerable progress, much more can be accomplished. Innovation in construction techniques, more efficient construction, and energy efficiency are among the most obvious. Strong partnerships between OHCS, local non-profit sponsors and housing authorities, and community leaders should be a hallmark. Oregon should be seen as this nation's leader in the fields of innovation, productivity and value.

\$100 million in bonding authority is the appropriate budget number. It can lead the way for amazing progress in every part of Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Walsh

Tom Walsh

1100 NW Glisan St., Suite 2-A
Portland, Oregon 97209
(503) 973-5001

(503) 724-5829 (cell)