



May 8, 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:

Mercy Corps Northwest is offering this letter of support for the proposal to invest \$100 million for affordable homes for families with low incomes. As an organization, we work with low-income entrepreneurs, and citizens returning to the community from incarceration in county jail, state or federal prison. Housing stability is critical to the success of our clients and it is becoming increasingly difficult for them to find safe, affordable and accessible places to live. Please help solve this problem by passing the proposed bond package. This will facilitate the building of homes affordable to families with low incomes. The proposed 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.

Mercy Corps Northwest work every day to help build more just, productive and secure communities here in the Oregon and Washington. A greater supply of affordable housing is essential to that vision, and in our ability to invest in people and create a better future for the next generation.

Please support this proposed historic investment in homes for Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Douglas Cooper

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