



May 14th, 2015

Capital Construction Sub-Committee of Ways and Means

Lottery-Backed Bonds for Preservation

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

I am Andrea Sanchez, Director of Housing at Human Solutions of Portland and Gresham, OR. The mission of Human Solutions is to help homeless and low-income families and individuals gain self-sufficiency by providing affordable housing, family support services, job readiness training, and economic development opportunities.

With more than 26 years of experience serving homeless and very low-income families and individuals in outer East Portland and East Multnomah County, Human Solutions works not only to address the symptoms of poverty, but also to develop innovative programs designed to overcome the root causes of poverty. As the largest provider of shelter and/or housing to homeless families in Multnomah County, Human Solutions serves more than 1,000 homeless parents and children in 370 families on any given night.

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the \$20 Million lottery-backed Bonding proposal to preserve currently affordable homes.

We know that our communities can't succeed without homes. However, we are at risk of decreasing the number of homes affordable to people with low incomes. Across the state thousands of people with extremely low incomes (less than \$10,000 a year) live in homes with federal rent subsidies and in manufactured home parks which are at risk of conversion to market rate.

The proposed \$20 Million will allow the public-private partnership of the Oregon Housing Preservation Project (OHPP) to continue on its success helping families, seniors, and people with disabilities who are living on very low incomes stay in their homes and in their communities.

Throughout the Human Solutions Housing portfolio, we have properties with long waiting lists and

humansolutions.org

Portland Office 12350 SE Powell Blvd., Portland, OR 97236
Rockwood Building 124 NE 181st Ave., Gresham, OR 97230

Phone 503.548.0200
Phone 503.405.7875

Fax 503.548.0299
Fax 503.405.7934

very low vacancy rates. Demand for our existing affordable housing units is only increasing with time, and as more families who live who low incomes seek housing in East Multnomah County.

We cannot afford to lose this precious resource and risk displacement of our neighbors. This proven public-private partnership can save these homes and leverage private and federal resources with the investment of Lottery Backed Bonds.

We urge your careful consideration of, and support for continuing this investment and ensuring our most vulnerable community members continue to have a safe, stable, affordable place to call home.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrea K. Sanchez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrea" being the most prominent part.

Andrea K. Sanchez
Director of Housing
Human Solutions