

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

I am Lindsay Winsor of Milton Freewater, Oregon. I am writing to urge your support for the \$20 Million Lottery Backed Bonding proposal to preserve currently affordable homes.

Milton Freewater can't succeed without affordable 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. That problem would have a direct impact on my town if allowed to go unchecked.

The proposed \$20 Million will allow the public-private partnership of the Oregon Housing Preservation Project (OHPP) to continue its success in helping families, seniors, and people with disabilities who are living on very low incomes stay in their homes and in their communities. Instead of those homes being converted to market rate properties, this money would facilitate renewal of rent subsidy contracts, purchase of properties by resident coops or non-profit agencies, or assist housing authorities to leverage rent subsidies with private capital so the homes could continue to be affordable.

At present, there are too few low cost housing resources in our community for the number of people who qualify for rent assistance. They can get a voucher to help pay the rent, but there are too few affordable places to meet the demand. If we lose currently affordable housing, the problem will become worse, not only for newly qualifying people but also for those who already have affordable housing.

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

I urge your careful consideration of this request to continue this investment and ensure our most vulnerable community members continue to have a safe, stable, affordable place to call home. It deserves the highest priority for use of Lottery Backed Bonds.

Thank you for your hard work on this matter.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Winsor
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