



May 28, 2015

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Sub-Committee on Capital Construction

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

My name is Rob Prasch, I am the Preservation Director with the Network for Oregon Affordable Housing. NOAH is a non-profit lender providing financing for affordable rental housing across the state.

I am writing today to urge you to invest in Oregon's future by supporting the Governor's proposed \$100 million for affordable homes for families with low incomes. Healthy communities need housing options affordable to all income levels. More than ever before, demand for affordable rental housing far outpaces the available supply in nearly every Oregon community. We can do better.

Today, 1 in 4 Oregon households spend more than 50% of their income on housing costs. Last year 20,000 children experienced homelessness in our state. With housing costs rising 3% to 8% year over year, thousands of families are forced to make choices between basics like food, utilities, health care or medicine, and child care. Oregon can do better.

We can help solve this problem by building homes affordable to families with low incomes. In the process, we can strengthen communities in every corner of the state, and boost local economies. The proposed \$100 million housing development bond package will promote new innovative models for developing and operating affordable housing with increased flexibility and sensitivity to local community needs. Statewide, the funds will build an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 new affordable homes, which could house 12,000 to 16,000 people.

With your support Oregon can choose to invest in people and create a better future for the next generation.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for providing resources that help ensure all community members have a safe, stable, affordable place to call home.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Prasch, Preservation Director
Network for Oregon Affordable Housing