



February 12, 2016

Representative Tobias Read, Co-Chair  
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways & Means  
SubCommittee on Capital Construction

**RE: HB 5202 -- Dedicate Lottery-Backed Bonds for Preservation of Affordable Housing**

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Read, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the City of Eugene in support of the use of Lottery Backed Bonds to preserve currently affordable homes across Oregon.

Eugene residents are both deeply concerned and deeply frustrated by the limited affordable housing opportunities. We know that stable access to decent, safe, and affordable housing is the cornerstone for educational achievement, health, and economic prosperity. Unfortunately, our housing challenges are fundamental barriers to achieving our cities', counties', and state's goals in these areas.

The City of Eugene has been proud to work in partnership with the legislature, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Lane County, and nonprofit partners to create thousands of housing units over many years. As these developments age, all will need reinvestment to restructure expiring financing and replace major systems. Without such investments, owners will have no choice but to either allow their properties to fall into disrepair or to increase rents to pay for critical improvements and result in possible displacement of long-term residents including seniors, veterans, families, and persons with disabilities.

Eugene is working closely with owners of affordable housing development to support preservation actions but additional state resources are necessary to fill financing gaps. We urge your careful consideration of, and support for continuing use of Lottery Backed Bonds for preservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kitty Piercy".

Mayor Kitty Piercy