



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

PORTLAND HOUSING BUREAU

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Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room F
Salem, OR 97301

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

I am Kurt Creager, Director of the Portland Housing Bureau, charged with solving the unmet housing needs of the people of Portland. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the use of Lottery Backed Bonds to preserve currently affordable homes across Oregon.

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. In Portland, our housing authority partner, Home Forward, is taking on a substantial and much needed rehabilitation of its public housing stock. This is just one example of many, we estimate the immediate capital preservation needs in Portland to be in the excess of \$27M.

Allocation of Lottery Backed Bonds will allow the ongoing work of many partners in communities across the state and the public-private partnership of the Oregon Housing Preservation Project (OHPP) to continue our track record of success helping families, seniors, and people with disabilities who are living on very low incomes stay in their homes and in their communities.

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,
Kurt Creager