



Oregon

Governor Kate Brown

Housing Stability Council

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Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Gomberg
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Gomberg, and Members of the Committee:

The Housing Stability Council provides policy direction, oversight, and guidance for Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS). I am writing to you today as the Chair on behalf of my fellow Council members to express our support for SB 1582, which would direct OHCS to implement the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) Development Program.

Today, far too many Oregonians are struggling to pay rent and still have enough income left over for other basic necessities. Extremely low vacancy rates and rising rents are putting a strain on Oregon families, especially low and middle income residents. As a state, we need to develop more affordable housing to meet the needs of our residents.

In 2015, the Legislature took an important step forward – committing \$40 million in Article XI-Q, general obligation bonds to build new affordable housing for families with low incomes. The Housing Stability Council and OHCS have been working to understand the requirements of these bonds and develop a program to best deploy these new resources. As a Council, we directed the agency to appoint two subcommittees of subject matter experts to advise us. Today, SB 1582 is the product of their work as well as the work of the agency with Legislative Counsel, Department of Justice, and other legal experts.

We are pleased today to ask for your support for this important piece of legislation. SB 1582 will provide guidance to the agency as they implement the LIFT program, and will give clear oversight responsibilities to the Council. We look forward to continuing our work with the agency on this important program.

Again, we urge your strong support of SB 1582.

Thank you for your consideration,

Aubré Dickson
Chair, Housing Stability Council

