



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

February 25, 2016

The Honorable Fred Girod, Co-Chair
The Honorable Tobias Read, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room F
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Read and Members of the Subcommittee:

We write in support for increased funding for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP), which provide important resources to stabilize families and address homelessness.

EHA is a flexible tool used to prevent homelessness through short-term rent assistance. SHAP funds emergency shelters and related auxiliary services, which helps people who are homeless or fleeing domestic violence to quickly enter safe emergency shelter services.

Although the state recently made significant investments to build new affordable housing units, demand for such units in Portland continues to outpace development. More resources are needed to keep people in their homes and for emergency services if they lose stable housing. Increasing state investments in EHA and SHAP will grow these critical safety nets. Ensuring more low income families have access to safe and stable homes will benefit communities across the state by improving health outcomes, increasing public safety and helping children succeed in school.

We urge your support for investments in these critical services to improve housing stability for vulnerable Oregon families.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner