



**Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
May 12, 2017  
Hearing on SB 5505**

Testimony from Peter Hainley, Executive Director  
Community and Shelter Assistance Corp. (CASA of Oregon)

Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and members of the Committee:

CASA of Oregon assists organizations (Community Development Corporations, Public Housing Authorities and residents in manufactured home parks who wish to own their communities) in the construction and/or preservation of affordable housing. Since 1988, we have assisted nearly 10,000 people to secure safe, affordable and decent housing. This housing is located throughout the state but is primarily in rural communities.

Currently, CASA is working with Catholic Community Services (CCS) on a project in Woodburn that is using the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) program, authorized by the 2016 legislature. This project builds on CCS's strong track record of working with DHS to ensure on-site delivery of services. Half of the units are reserved for very-low income families (\$28,600 for a family of four). The project also seeks to serve families at risk of losing children to the foster care system.

We would like the legislature to provide \$100 million in Q bonds to the LIFT program, of which \$20 million would be set-aside for permanently-affordable homeownership options. We believe this set-aside will provide additional innovation particularly in the area of cost containment as it will encourage the use of more affordable housing options including manufactured and modular housing, including tiny homes.

As an organization that promotes permanently affordable homeownership via our Manufactured Housing Cooperative Development Program, we see a lot of opportunities in using LIFT in our resident-owned cooperatives. The structure of LIFT lends itself well to cooperatives and community land trusts and we encourage the committee to ensure a \$20 million set aside.

Thanks for your service and we urge your support SB 5505 and \$100 million in Q bonds!

Kind Regards,

Peter Hainley  
Executive Director