



Oregon

Governor Kate Brown

Housing and Community Services

North Mall Office Building
725 Summer St NE, Suite B
Salem, OR 97301-1266
PHONE: (503) 986-2000
FAX: (503) 986-2020
TTY: (503) 986-2100
www.ohcs.oregon.gov

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Senator Fred Girod
Representative Paul Holvey
Co-Chairs, Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court St. NE, HR F
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 5530 – Lottery Backed Bonds for the Preservation of Affordable Housing

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Subcommittee:

I write to urge your support for Governor Brown's proposed investment of \$10 million dollars in lottery backed bonds to support the preservation of affordable housing. Preserving Oregon's existing affordable housing is a critical step in our continuing efforts to address the shortage of affordable housing in Oregon.

For every one new unit built in Oregon, at least 2 are at risk of loss. Affordable rental housing in Oregon is subsidized by federal and state resources and a substantial amount of this housing could be lost in the next 20 years by way of expiring federal rent subsidies, use restrictions, and maturing mortgages, as well as physical deterioration of the property. Properties can be preserved when they are refinanced to extend affordability or when federal rent subsidies are renewed. At the same time, they are typically rehabilitated.

State investment is essential to ensuring that federal subsidies are renewed, rents are kept affordable, and properties are rehabilitated to maintain safe and accessible homes for residents. Preservation is important. The loss of even a single unit of housing could mean one more Oregon family cannot find a home.

This investment of \$10 million in lottery backed bonds will help ensure the continuation of successful public-private partnerships to preserve Oregon's affordable housing and keep Oregonians in their homes. I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Margaret Solle Salazar
Director, Oregon Housing and Community Services

