



**Claire Hall  
County Commissioner**

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The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair  
State Emergency Board  
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I thank you for your support of Phase One of Project Turnkey. As a local elected leader in a community that lost approximately 300 homes to the Echo Mountain Wildfire, I am grateful to have an additional option for providing temporary housing for the individuals and families displaced by the fire—mostly low-income service workers and seniors.

Today, I appeal to you to support Phase Two of Project Turnkey, to offer this same option to communities not impacted by wildfire. This the fastest, most efficient and most cost-effective plan available to address a severe humanitarian crisis—thousands of Oregonians without a safe, decent, habitable space to sleep this winter.

I write as a Lincoln County Commissioner and past president of the Association of Oregon Counties who has spent more than fifteen years in both a policy and volunteer role addressing our housing and homelessness crisis. As you are already aware, a variety of circumstances have made an already difficult situation even worse.

I encourage you to look back at your February special session, when a package to boost the state's shelter network system was on the table. Even before COVID-19 and the September wildfires, Oregon's shelter system was always short thousands of beds. These twin crises have only compounded the problem, especially with COVID forcing a sharp pivot away from traditional congregate shelters.

I know every one of you understands the need to bolster our shelter system. I understand that many of you have legitimate concerns about committing such a large amount of state resources to a new and still developing concept. I respect the need for process and insuring that limited public resources are spent wisely. But I also believe that extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures.

I recall a story from the early days of the Frank Roosevelt Administration, when presidential aide Harry Hopkins was dealing with a Congressman who was skeptical of the need for New Deal programs and said

the economy would be okay in the long run. "People don't eat in the long run," Hopkins responded. "They eat every day."

People don't need a place to sleep in the long run; they need one every night, including tonight.

Thank you for your consideration.

/s

Claire Hall

Lincoln County Commissioner