



March 25, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 5512 Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Housing and Community Services Department for biennial expenses and for debt service.

Dear Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Gomberg and Members of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development,

I am writing to share the City of Beaverton's support for Senate Bill 5512 which will provide critical resources, staffing and support necessary for communities to address homelessness and affordable housing needs through the Oregon Housing and Community Services Department.

Beaverton has taken a proactive approach to address affordable housing needs and homelessness in our community. In 2017, the Beaverton Severe Weather Shelter opened to provide a warm, safe place for adults experiencing homelessness to stay during the winter. Last season, more than 180 people were served. Beaverton also hosts Family Promise which provides temporary shelter to families in need. Without an adequate supply at a wide range of housing affordability, our residents will continue to fall farther behind, severely impacting those most in need and who we are as a community.

More than a third of Beaverton residents are cost burdened, spending more than 30% of their monthly income on housing and more than half of low income families are rent burdened (spending more than 50% of their incomes on housing). The state is a critically important partner in delivering the support services and deeply affordable housing that Oregon communities need. New funding tools are critical for jurisdictions to provide stable housing services for our community, including additional funds for emergency rent assistance, wrap-around services for our vulnerable communities, enhancing access to homeownership such as down payment assistance, education, counseling and incentivizing developers to build more affordable homes.

Communities throughout the region need more resources to assist the growing number of community members facing difficulties finding and maintaining the housing they need and can afford. The City of Beaverton urges your support of SB 5512.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Twete". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cheryl Twete
Community Development Director