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Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development

Attention: Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Gomberg and Members of the Committee

I am writing to support **SB 5512** on behalf of Housing Works, the regional public housing authority serving the Central Oregon Counties of Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson. Our agency administers over 1,200 federal Housing Choice Vouchers and owns and operates over 1,000 units of affordable housing units in the three Central Oregon Counties. Central Oregon is the fastest growing region in the State and we are its largest provider of affordable housing. Almost all of our residents and voucher holders earn incomes less than half of the area median and a substantial proportion less than a third of the area median. A great many of our residents and voucher holders were homeless prior to obtaining housing through our programs.

Over the past several years Housing Works has been able to develop, on average, 100 affordable housing units a year. This is largely a result of the increased State resources managed by Oregon Housing and Community Services. The development of 100 new affordable housing units per year does not even begin to keep up with the growing needs of this region. Our waiting lists are four times the number of units we can provide. However, the increased resources provided in **SB 5512** will go a long way in helping house the neediest residents of our region and the State.

The most recent 90 units of affordable rental housing we have completed were funded through OHCS's LIFT program. That program is now depleted and will be unable to provide necessary resource going forward without the adoption of **SB 5512**. The proposed Housing Accelerator Program in **SB 5512** will provide funding for greatly need and underfunded workforce housing that the employers in our region have been advocating for. Increasingly, we are struggling to preserve the affordable housing stock that already exists in the region. The additional preservation resources in **SB 5512** will help us stem the loss of these critical units.

I thank the Committee for your consideration of this needed legislation and for your service to the residents of the State of Oregon.

Yours truly,

David Brandt  
Executive Director