



Coastal Housing Center  
93781 Newport Ln.  
Coos Bay, OR 97420  
Phone: 541-756-1000

Main Office  
605 SE Kane St.  
Roseburg, OR 97470  
Phone: 541-673-4909

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Manning, Co-Chair Gomberg, and esteemed members of the Committee,

I write you today on behalf of NeighborWorks Umpqua (NWU) to express the organization’s support for SB 5512, which would provide additional resources to the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) Housing Program. This program allows organizations like NWU to develop affordable homes for sale to Oregonians across the state.

NeighborWorks Umpqua is a rural-focused housing and community development corporation committed to promoting opportunity for all. The organization’s activities are primarily concentrated in the five counties of Southwestern Oregon (Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson & Josephine), where NWU aims to serve community members who at or below 100% of Area Median Income (AMI).

NWU firmly believes that addressing the lack of housing that people can afford is a key piece to increasing community health, livability and resiliency. As a 2018 participant in the LIFT program, NWU was able to remove barriers to homeownership and build more affordable housing through the mutual self-help model; resulting in nine families committed to using sweat-equity to work together to build their own homes. In this way, the program supports people building affordable homes, while building and strengthening community.

More resources would increase NWU’s capacity to build more affordable housing. This is especially critical in rural communities with low owner vacancy rates, where the market no longer produce housing that is affordable to hard working families at or below 100% of AMI.

NeighborWorks Umpqua believes that everyone deserves a safe, healthy and affordable place to call home. SB 5512 provides organizations like NWU with the necessary tools to support community development through affordable home ownership.

Sincerely,

Arielle Reid  
Director of Policy & Advocacy  
NeighborWorks Umpqua



Equal Housing Opportunity and Equal Housing Lender  
[www.nwumpqua.org](http://www.nwumpqua.org) | CCB# 15199 | NMLS# 255912