



April 10, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Attention: Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee

My name is M.A. Leonard, Vice President and Market Leader for Enterprise Community Partners Pacific Northwest office, and I am writing to you today to express my support for HB 5005, and the Housing Alliance Request for \$200 million in General Obligation, Article XI-Q bonds to build affordable Homes across Oregon.

At Enterprise Community Partners we believe that we can help families access opportunity through quality, safe, and affordable homes. As a national organization, we have chosen to dive deep in 11 markets across the country, including here in the Pacific Northwest serving both Oregon and Washington. In Multnomah County, for every 100 families with extremely low incomes, there are only 22 affordable units available. That means that only 2 out of every 10 families have access to an affordable home that is within their means. Our work in Oregon hopes to provide more affordable homes for these families and to reduce the severity of the housing crisis by supporting families.

Across Oregon, we have non-profit organizations and public housing authorities who are ready to build safe, stable and affordable homes for rent and for purchase. We support the Housing Alliance's \$200 million ask because it can provide additional critical resources to support more of this work and spur more affordable housing projects across Oregon. Since 2015, the Legislature has committed \$120 million in general obligation bonds to the LIFT program, which has funded over 2,000 affordable homes since 2015. These homes are being built across Oregon – Newport to Ontario, Klamath Falls to Astoria, Roseburg, Hermiston, Eugene, Bend, Redmond, and Sisters, and everywhere in between.

Creating opportunities and access to an affordable home will have lasting substantial impacts for individuals and families. Children that live in a stable home have better odds of performing better in schools. And for many adults, having a stable and affordable home is the first step to long-lasting, sustainable recovery.

I strongly encourage you to act to help reduce the housing crisis and support the Housing Alliance request for \$200 million to develop new affordable homes across Oregon (80% to affordable rental homes, 20% to affordable homes for sale) in HB 5005.

So many of the pathways to opportunity begin in a home, and access to opportunity should be afforded to every Oregonian. Thank you to the committee for your attention and for your service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.A. Leonard".

M.A. Leonard
Vice President and Market Leader
Enterprise Community Partners – Pacific Northwest.