



April 12, 2019

Joint Subcommittee on Ways and Means on Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 5005

Chair Girod, Chair Holvey, and members of the committee

Oregon Food Bank urges the Legislature to support HB 5005, and the Housing Alliance request for \$200 million in General Obligation, Article XI-Q bonds to build affordable homes across Oregon.

Oregon Food Bank believes that no one should be hungry, that hunger starves the human spirit, and that everyone deserves healthy, fresh food. We have spent three decades building a highly effective, nimble and collaborative community response to hunger through a statewide network of 21 regional food banks and 1,200 programs and partners serving 800,000 people in Oregon and Clark County, Washington.

Oregon Food Bank's mission is to end hunger and its root causes. We know that the nexus between housing and hunger is strong. Clients increasingly tell us that they have to make the tough choice between rent and food. They speak of ever-increasing rents and the inability to find an affordable place to call home. Some speak of becoming homeless for the first time because they cannot find an affordable place to live.

The good news is that housing insecurity is solvable and regulated affordable housing is one such crucial solution. It provides much-needed safe, stable and affordable housing for low-income Oregonians and is a critical tool in solving our housing crisis.

We know that additional resources are needed for this program. Our clients tell us that they begin to lining up and camping out days before the housing lists open in the hopes of securing one such apartment.

We also know that we have the community infrastructure in place to build these much-needed homes. 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. With additional resources, we can support more of this work and build projects across the state.

Everywhere we go the message is the same: Oregonians across the state are being forced to make the tough choice between paying their rent or putting food on the table to feed their family. Regulated affordable housing helps to address these problems and ensure that every Oregonian has a safe, stable and affordable place to call home. We urge the Legislature to fund \$200 million in general obligation bonds for affordable housing.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Anneliese Koehler, akoehler@oregonfoodbank.org

oregonfoodbank.org



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anneliese Koehler
Public Policy Advocate, Oregon Food Bank

