

Coastal Housing Center  
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605 SE Kane St.  
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April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Esteemed Members of the Committee,

I write you today on behalf of NeighborWorks Umpqua (NWU) to express the organization’s support for HB 5005 and the Housing Alliance request for \$200 million in General Obligation, Article XI-Q bonds, 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).

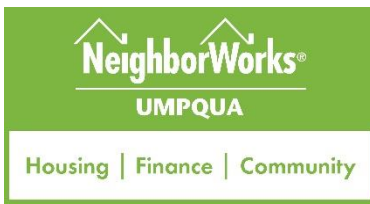
NWU firmly believes that addressing the lack of housing that people can afford is a key piece to increasing community health, livability and resiliency. This is especially critical in rural communities with low vacancy rates both in the rental and home ownership markets, where the markets no longer produce housing that is affordable to hard working families at or below 100% of AMI.

As a 2018 participant in the LIFT program, NWU was able use the mutual self-help model, where nine families committed to using sweat-equity to build each other’s homes. In this way, the program supports people building affordable homes, while building and strengthening community connection. Additional resources would mean would allow NWU to continue building communities through building housing. In 2019 and 2020, this would mean that NWU could build multifamily units and provide 20 additional homes in communities off of the I-5 corridor.

Since 2015, the Legislature has committed \$120 million in general obligation bonds to the LIFT program. This commitment has resulted in over 2,000 affordable homes being built, all over the state. NWU asks the committee for their support of HB 5005, which would provide \$200 million in additional resources to build affordable multi and single family housing NeighborWorks Umpqua believes that sustainable community development rests in everyone having a safe, healthy and affordable place to call home.



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[www.nwumpqua.org](http://www.nwumpqua.org) | CCB# 15199 | NMLS# 255912



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Join with us in increasing community resiliency, health and livability in Southwestern Oregon through affordable housing.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you and for your service to the State.

Sincerely,

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Arielle Reid  
Director of Policy & Advocacy  
NeighborWorks Umpqua



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