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Homes. People. Partnerships. Good. www.homesforgood.org

TO: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

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

We at Homes for Good Housing Agency are writing to support Oregon HB 5030, and the Housing Alliance request for \$100 million in lottery bonds to maintain affordable housing across Oregon. Homes for Good is Lane County's public housing authority, and our primary work is to help low-income residents with the logistics of affordable housing. At a higher level, we are neighbors united to get every Lane County resident who needs help, into a home. At Homes for Good, we believe everyone deserves a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. Homes for Good offers several Rent Assistance programs and manages a portfolio of Public Housing sites. Despite our work and the work of other organizations in our community, there is a great need for increased help. In the January 2018 Homeless Point-in-Time Count, 1,642 people were counted as homeless in Lane County with 1,135 individuals without any form of shelter. Out of these individuals, 713 are considered chronically homeless.¹

At Homes for Good, we are advocating for additional resources to maintain affordable homes across Oregon. Over the years organizations like Homes for Good have built thousands of apartment buildings and single-family homes to create more affordable housing units in communities across the state. As time passes, these homes will need repairs and maintenance to continue serving as safe affordable housing options.

Homes for Good housing portfolio average building age is 30 years. We hope to rehabilitate and preserve many of our public housing sites in the next five years. The declining level of federal funding for ongoing maintenance and capital projects does not meet the demand for necessary repairs on our sites.

In the past 10 years Homes for Good for Good has completed preservation and maintenance projects on 4 properties consisting of over 180 units. Preservation funds are critical to maintaining a safe place to live for our communities most vulnerable citizens. These projects allow federal rent assistance to remain in our community and keep individuals who would otherwise be at risk of homelessness in a stable housing environment where they have a greater chance of success.

With Oregon HB 5030 we have the opportunity to reinvest in our properties and ensure that these affordable housing options stay safe and continue to be a viable place to call home for the rising generation. These housing units require regular investments to serve residents, and the \$100 million that the Housing Alliance has requested will help in this effort to maintain existing affordable rental homes across the state serving the people who call them home. We would like to thank the Committee for your attention to this issue, and for your service.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Fox", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jacob Fox
Executive Director

¹ <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3470/Homelessness>