



To: Joint Subcommittee on Ways and Means on Capital Construction  
From: Matt Newell-Ching, Oregon Food Bank  
RE: HB 5201  
Date: February 17, 2020

**Oregon Food Bank urges the Legislature to support HB 5201, and the Speakers request for \$50 million in General Obligation, Article XI-Q bonds to build affordable homes across Oregon (and/or) \$20 million for Lottery Bonds to maintain existing affordable homes.**

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. Many of our clients 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. 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.

The message is the same in every corner of our state: Oregonians are 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Oregon Food Bank

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