



February 14, 2020

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street, NE, HR F
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Affordable Housing Development and Preservation Resources in HB 5202 and HB 5201

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Subcommittee:

The League of Oregon Cities strongly supports the Speaker's request for \$50 million in General Obligation, Article XI-Q bonds for the LIFT program to build affordable homes across Oregon and \$20 million in Lottery Bonds to preserve existing affordable homes.

The League of Oregon Cities represents all 241 incorporated cities in the state of Oregon. The League is a committed partner in supporting the range of strategies needed to address the shortage of affordable housing in communities large and small across Oregon. The LIFT program is a critical state resource that leverages federal, local, and private investment to increase our state's supply of affordable housing. LIFT has been a proven catalyst in the historic affordable housing production we see today in Oregon. With your support, an additional \$50 million investment in the LIFT program will bring much needed affordable homes to more Oregon families.

As we all work to increase Oregon's supply of affordable housing, it is critically important that we also preserve Oregon's existing affordable homes. State investment is essential to ensuring that public subsidies are renewed, rents are kept affordable, and properties are rehabilitated to maintain safe and accessible homes for residents. We urge your support for \$20 million in Lottery Bonds to preserve and maintain affordable homes across the state.

Thank you,

Ariel Nelson
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