



March 29, 2021

Joint Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 5011

Dear Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Gomberg and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share support for HB 5011 and full funding for the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) budget.

The LOC represents all of Oregon's 241 cities across the state, which continue to face escalating rates of homelessness and a severe shortage of affordable and available housing. In the 2021 Legislative Session, the LOC is advocating to increase critical state investments in housing and services programs across the housing spectrum, from preventing and ending homelessness, to developing and maintaining affordable homes, to increasing access to and maintenance of affordable homeownership.

In partnership with the Oregon Housing Alliance, the LOC also supports additional funding beyond the OHCS requested budget for key programs, including:

- \$50 million for Emergency Housing Assistance and State Housing Assistance Program
- \$50 million plus rental assistance and services funding to support Permanent Supportive Housing
- \$250 million in bonding for the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) rental housing and homeownership programs
- \$100 million for the preservation of existing affordable housing.

While new vaccines bring hope for an end to the pandemic, cities remain your committed partners in COVID-19 response and relief for our shared constituents, to ensure Oregon moves toward an equitable recovery. HB 5011 is an important part of the comprehensive approach needed to address homelessness, maintain stable housing and support Oregon's path to economic recovery. We urge your support.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ariel Nelson
League of Oregon Cities