



CITY OF HOOD RIVER

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April 8, 2021

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

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

I write to you today on behalf of the City of Hood River in support of SB 5505, and the inclusion of \$250 million for affordable housing and \$50 million for permanent supportive housing in Article XI-Q General Obligation bonds.

The City and County governments in Hood River jointly own approximately 9 acres of residentially zoned property that has been designated for development of affordable housing. The City has completed a feasibility study that demonstrates that the project will support 100+ units of affordable housing, with most of the units available to families making below 80% of median family income. This feasibility study assumes that LIFT funds would be available for the project.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, Hood River was already experiencing a housing crisis, and too many of our neighbors and community members were experiencing housing instability. According to a report from EcoNW, housing costs in Hood River increased by about \$116,000 or 37% between 2014 and 2019. Rent costs increased to a median monthly rent of \$1,550. Overall, 48% of renters are cost burdened in Hood River!

Since 2015, the Legislature has committed millions in general obligation bonds to the LIFT program, and over 3,600 affordable homes have been or are being built. These homes are being built in communities across Oregon – Newport to Ontario, Klamath Falls to Astoria, Roseburg, Hermiston, Eugene, Bend, Redmond, and Sisters, and everywhere in between.

We urge your support for the inclusion of \$250 million for affordable housing and \$50 million for permanent supportive housing in Article XI-Q General Obligation bonds in SB 5505. The City of Hood River is ready to partner with the development community to build affordable units in our community and this project depends on the LIFT funds.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Rachael Fuller
City Manager