



COMMUNITY PARTNERS
FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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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 Community Partners for Affordable Housing 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.**

Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) serves Washington County and SW Portland. We are a community housing development organization that is committed to a broad range of affordable housing, including permanent supportive housing. We have ten properties and serve 466 households, including large families and individuals who are exiting homelessness.

CPAH knows that permanent, safe and stable housing is a platform to ensure individual, family and community health and that a safe and stable place to call home is a basic human need.

Prior to the COVID pandemic, Oregon was already experiencing a housing crisis, and too many of our neighbors and community members were experiencing housing instability. In the 2019-20 school year, over 21,000 kids experienced homelessness at some point during the year, with their families. Due to COVID and the early closure of schools, we know this is likely an undercount.

Permanent Supportive Housing combines housing, services and rent assistance to end homelessness AND IT WORKS, transforming lives and stabilizing communities. CPAH is dedicated to ensuring we help to provide this opportunity, but of course we need the partnership of public agencies and funders. We are currently in the process of applying for funds to provide large family units with supportive services in Tigard and we are also working to renovate the Joyce Hotel in downtown Portland, which will provide 66 units of Permanent Supportive Housing to formerly homeless individuals. These resources in SB5505 are critical to agencies that wish to get building and end homelessness.

We strongly support the passage of SB5505 and \$50 million in Article XI-Q general obligation bonds to build more permanent supportive housing, plus the ongoing rent assistance and services dollars needed to operate these projects.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rachael Duke' in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Rachael Duke, Executive Director
Community Partners for Affordable Housing