



April 9, 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 Salem Housing Authority 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.

Salem Housing Authority has recently benefited from LIFT funding in our first Permanent Supportive Housing Development Redwood Crossings. This project is currently in lease up and adds 37 units to our supply. Both permanent housing units as well as transitional. SHA is also in pre-development with three other projects.

Permanent Supportive Housing projects are essential in combating homelessness. They offer housing first and service navigation to self-sufficiency. Supportive services are essential to these projects and funding needs are much higher than other forms of affordable housing. We have learned since opening Redwood Crossings, that supportive weekday services are not enough. The project needs 24/7 staffing but funding these services has been challenging.

Sequoia Crossings is another SHA project, currently in pre-development. This project will seek Permanent Supportive Housing funding. This project will bring an additional 60 units to the Salem Affordable Housing supply and will have services on site to serve our most vulnerable unsheltered neighbors. This project has submitted applications for funding 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

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.

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. With additional resources, we can support more of this work and build projects across Oregon to provide safe and stable places to call home for members of our communities.

Salem & Keizer's Largest
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The City of Salem, who serves as the commission for the Housing Authority, has established key legislative priorities supporting the full funding of affordable housing programs. These programs are a perfect example of how local and state government can work together, increase the supply of affordable housing and address homelessness through long term housing stability.

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.

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

Sincerely,

Jessica Blakely

Jessica Blakely
Asset Manager
Salem Housing Authority