



April 9, 2021

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

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

I write to you today on behalf of Carleton Hart Architecture 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.

Carleton Hart Architecture (CHA) is a mission-driven architecture studio that strives for innovative and equitable solutions to design challenges. Founded in Portland, Oregon in 1994, CHA is passionate about design and community-building through our work in affordable housing, historic preservation, public, commercial, institutional and spiritual projects.

Our practice is uniquely focused on affordable and transitional housing demonstrated by our portfolio of more than 125 affordable housing projects throughout the Pacific Northwest. We are committed to serving underprivileged and vulnerable communities through projects that serve a wide variety of resident populations, including homeless and those transitioning from homelessness, those displaced due to gentrification, farm and other agricultural industry workers, veterans, seniors, intergenerational communities, foster youth and their adoptive families, and the disabled and developmentally disabled. Our methodology is based firmly in a belief that design has a profound influence on people's ability to heal from trauma and contribute to community.

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.

Access to affordable housing changes lives. We have seen firsthand the positive impact affordable housing has on individuals, families, and entire neighborhoods. All of us benefit when everyone in our community has a safe, healthy home.

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,

Brian Carleton