

April 16, 2021

Dear Co-Chair Johnson, Co-Chair Steiner-Hayward, Co-Chair Rayfield, and Members of the Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee,

I am submitting testimony today to urge the committee to respond to the housing crisis across Oregon by approving appropriate investments to support affordable rental and homeownership housing, and to diminish the rising tide of homelessness in our communities. These requests are based on my thirty year career working on affordable housing in Oregon, first in the private sector and later in the public sector at the local and federal levels.

More specifically, I hope you will vote for the following measures:

- Funding for emergency shelters as provided in HB 2004;
- \$250 million for affordable housing and \$50 million for permanent supportive housing in the form of Government Obligation bonds, as provided in SB 5505 and SB 5506;
- \$100M in Lottery Bonds to preserve existing affordable housing developments across Oregon, as per SB 5534;
- \$50M for emergency rent assistance, rapid re-housing resources, and emergency shelter support through the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and the State Homelessness Assistance Program (SHAP), as contained in HB 5011.

Oregon needs to build more safe, stable, and affordable homes, and we clearly need to provide more assistance to those who currently have no home at all.

Thank you for your leadership on these issues,

Sincerely,  
William L. White  
Mosier, Oregon