

April 23, 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 Harbor Village Cooperative, in Newport, in support of SB 5534, and the inclusion of \$100 million to preserve and maintain existing affordable in Lottery bonds.

Our trailer park was just purchased by the residents through CASA to attempt to keep the rents stable and reasonable affordable. The park has been up for sale twice since I moved in. The section in which I live is for 55 year old and older. I am 75. It would be very difficult to find other housing in this price range. As it is we have incurred a bridge loan which will require our rents to be raised. With lottery aid we could pay off the bridge loan and be in a position to keep the rents stable and affordable.

A safe and stable place to call home is a basic human need.

Today, we have the opportunity to reinvest in these homes and ensure they will be safe and available for the next generation. Just like schools or hospitals, affordable rental homes need regular investments to ensure they stay safe for people to live in. Our investments are needed to replace the roof, make repairs to the exterior of the buildings, or to ensure the safety and habitability of these homes for generations to come. Oregon needs to steward these aging homes for future generations without raising rents.

Unfortunately, it is not in the nature of our economic system for prices and rents to go down. They only go up. We are hoping to be able to enjoy our retirement years without the threat of homelessness, and the resident purchase of our beloved park will give us a chance. We urge your support for the inclusion of \$100 million to preserve and maintain affordable housing in communities across Oregon.

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

Sincerely,
Michael D. Wood
Harbor Village Cooperative
Newport, OR97365