



*Sheila Stiley, Board
chair – NW Coastal
Housing*

*Kymberly Horner –
Vice-chair - Portland
Community
Reinvestment Inc.*

*Rachael Duke,
Secretary -
Community Partners
for Affordable
Housing*

*Kristy Rodriguez,
Treasurer – Housing
Authority of Malheur
& Harney Counties*

*Wakan Alferes -
Homes for Good*

*Trell Anderson – NW
Housing Alternatives*

*David Brandt -
Housing Works*

*Rita Grady – Polk
CDC*

*Maria Elena Guerra -
Farmworker Housing
Development Corp*

*Brad Ketch –
Rockwood CDC and
Community Develop-
ment Corp of Oregon*

*Nkenge Harmon
Johnson – Urban
League of Portland*

*Erica Mills –
NeighborWorks
Umpqua*

*Shannon Vilhauer –
Habitat for Humanity
of Oregon*

March 6, 2023

Senator Aaron Woods
Representative David Gomberg
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 5019

Dear Co-Chairs Woods and Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

Housing Oregon urges your support for HB 5019, which appropriates \$155 million for homelessness prevention and services to address the human suffering caused by the housing crisis we're facing in Oregon.

Housing Oregon is a membership-based statewide association of over 80 affordable housing community development corporations (CDCs) and allies committed to serving and supporting low-income Oregonians across the housing needs spectrum - from homelessness to homeownership.

The bill follows through on Governor Kotek's Executive Orders 23-02 and 23-03 providing funds for the following:

- \$33.6 million to prevent homelessness statewide to prevent evictions for 8,750 households statewide.
- \$85.2 million to rehouse people experiencing homelessness and expand shelter capacity in emergency areas by creating 600 new shelter beds and rehousing 1,200 homeless individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- \$27.4 million to rehouse people experiencing homelessness and expand shelter capacity in the 26 rural counties that make up the Balance of State Continuum of Care.
- \$5 million to federally recognized Tribes to address homelessness needs among tribal members statewide, and,
- \$3.9 million for emergency management response coordination by OHCS and ODEM.

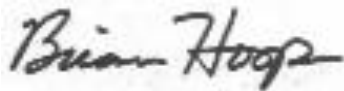
P.O. Box 8427, Portland, OR 97207

HB 5019 directs state agencies to work together, across all levels of government, to make the immediate and long-term changes that this humanitarian crisis requires. We appreciate the additional appropriation of \$27.4 million for the balance of state for areas not covered by the Governor's state of emergency declaration. Housing Oregon is ready to work with our members in coordination with state agencies to get these resources out to those most in need.

We'd like to call your attention to ensure the community-based organizations distributing rent assistance and providing homelessness services need to have sufficient funding to hire, train, and retain staffing to take on this work. Also, please consider allowing for flexibility in delivery of these resources and services to ensure culturally specific and smaller organizations closest to the most marginalized communities are able to access funds along with existing larger organizations who already have greater capacity. Last, we need streamlined, simple processes for organizations to access the eviction prevention funds and distribute them to tenants and landlords.

In addition to this initial down payment, we urge the Legislature to make significant, additional investments to rehouse and prevent homelessness for more Oregonians, build and preserve more housing units statewide, and increase homeownership. We are grateful to legislative leaders for acting quickly to move this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Hoop". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Hoop
Executive Director
Housing Oregon