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Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Kim Wagner and I am a Public Policy Associate with the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. In partnership with over 150 congregations, organizations, and interfaith partners, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) works with and for Oregonians through participating in community-supported political advocacy and providing direct services for thousands of people through our 6 different programs to serve Oregonians who are immigrants, refugees, experiencing houselessness, or low-income — including the Northeast Emergency Food Pantry, which was the busiest food pantry in the state during the peak of the pandemic. **I write in support of HB 5005.**

Oregon is currently experiencing a housing crisis — we are currently behind 110,000 homes to meet the current need and will need to produce approximately 500,000 more homes over the next two decades to meet the housing needs of the growing population in our state. Due to this lack of available housing — and therefore a decreased amount of affordable housing — many Oregonians, especially those who utilize our food pantry or who are refugees, are families struggling with the cost of housing on top of other living expenses. Many of our community organization and faith congregation partners see the need for housing in their own backyards and have expressed interest in putting affordable housing on their own property to help mitigate this crisis. However, oftentimes they lack access to funding for developing these housing projects on their own. We hear of these struggles from our friends and neighbors each day and want to be part of the solution in bringing more housing options to Oregon. That is why we support HB 5005.

HB 5005 will direct \$906 million in General Obligation Bonds for investment to the Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) Rental Housing and Homeownership programs and the Permanent Supportive Housing Program. We know that these programs work — LIFT programs have contributed to the development of over 6,000 affordable rental homes and provided more than 400 homeownership opportunities for families in rural parts of the state and communities of color. The Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program has helped combat the houselessness crisis by helping to connect people experiencing chronic houselessness to resources and housing through the creation of more than 600 units of affordable housing. HB 5005 will also allocate \$450 million in Private Activity Bonds (PAB) from

federal resources to Oregon Housing and Community Services. PAB investments make the LIFT program more successful and support local housing bond investments, bringing in more federal resources for both the production of new units and the preservation of existing affordable housing.

We, along with our community partners, faith congregations, and the Oregonians we serve, want to urge the production of affordable housing to continue in Oregon — and this bill will accomplish just that. Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon urges the subcommittee's support of HB 5005 to help communities develop affordable housing, give Oregonians more housing options, and help to end the housing crisis we see each day.

Sincerely,

Kim Wagner
Public Policy Associate
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon