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TAX ID # 93-0639815

February 16, 2024

Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod and members of the Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

My name is Paul Solomon and I am the senior advisor and former executive director of Sponsors Inc., a national leader in the delivery of Reentry services, operating in Lane County. We offer a broad range of services—case management, employment assistance, housing, mental health services and mentoring—that people need in order to be successful upon returning to their community.

I also serve on several boards and commissions, including as Chair of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission and on the Governor's Racial Justice Council, subcommittee on Criminal Justice Reform & Police Accountability.

It is with great enthusiasm and a degree of urgency that I ask for your support regarding funding for The Coleman, the latest permanent supportive housing (PSH) collaboration between Homes for Good Housing Agency, Lane County and Sponsors, Inc. The Coleman is a 4-story mixed-use building that will include 52 individual living units, Sponsors' Reentry Resource Center, support service space, a large multi-function meeting room, and outdoor community spaces.

The Coleman is named in honor of the late civil rights leader, Dr. Edwin Coleman, an African American professor of English at the University of Oregon and founding board member of Sponsors. Dr. Coleman and his wife Charmaine played an active role in the organization spanning five decades.

The Coleman will serve individuals with conviction histories who have successfully completed Sponsors' transitional housing program after recently releasing from state custody, and who are at high risk for homelessness. Services associated with The Coleman will include:

- Individualized case management
- Support in securing employment and/or pursuing education
- Individual and group behavioral health services
- Parenting classes/Parent-child visitation space
- Peer support services
- Other services to support self-sufficiency

The land for this apartment community was donated by Lane County and is an ideal location for access to support services. It is located across the street from Sponsors' Roosevelt Crossing housing community and administrative offices on Highway 99, and sits directly adjacent to the new Lane County Parole and Probation services hub.

Sponsors Inc., Lane County and Homes for Good have partnered for more than two decades. This partnership has been recognized nationally for the development of model programs, similar to The Coleman, that utilize evidence-based practices to reduce homelessness and recidivism. The most recent data related to Sponsors' permanent supportive housing program found that 91% of the individuals placed in housing remained stably housed after 4+ years and there was a ~80% reduction in recidivism for the target population.

With construction plans and budgeting complete, the Capital Funding for The Coleman would allow us to break ground by year end, thereby contributing directly to local, state and national priorities related to homelessness prevention.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Solomon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Paul Solomon
Senior Advisor, Former Executive Director
Sponsors, Inc.