

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL
DISTRICT 10/DISTRITO 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON

February 16, 2024

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and honorable members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

I am Deb Patterson, State Senator for District 10, which includes South Salem, West Salem, Monmouth, and Independence.

I write to you today in strong support of the next crucial phase for Orchard Park, an affordable housing community here in our capital city. Over the past several months, community partners have worked to preserve affordability in this neighborhood and to ensure it remains a place of stability and hope for more than 400 families.

Last year, Aberdeen Capital partnered with the Salem Housing Authority and acquired Orchard Park to prevent rents from rising to market rates. The goal of this partnership is to secure Orchard Park's future as an affordable housing community and ensure residents will not face the uncertainty of displacement or the hardship of escalating housing costs.

As the project moves forward, some pieces remain unfinished. The property requires significant investment for vital renovations to ensure its continued service to its residents and the community. The requested \$5 million for this shovel-ready project is not only a strategic investment but also a direct action towards securing the well-being of neighborhood residents.

This funding will directly translate into substantial improvements in safety, efficiency, and living conditions for the residents of Orchard Park. It is an investment that goes beyond infrastructure to foster a stronger, more resilient community for current and future generations.

I urge the committee's support for this proposal to build an inclusive, vibrant Salem where every individual has access to high-quality affordable housing.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully,

Deb Patterson