



February 15, 2024

Joint Committee on Ways and Means on Capital Construction
Legislative Fiscal Office
900 Court St. NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of Heart of Oregon Corps' Centralized Campus request for \$3M

Dear Senator Girod, Representative Holvey, and Committee Members:

The Heart of Oregon Corps Centralized Campus is a visionary project that aligns with our mission to address the pressing housing supply challenges facing our state.

As the Vice President of Community Engagement at Hayden Homes and a member of workforce shortage committee on Governor Kotek's Housing Production Advisory Council I am acutely aware of the urgent need for a skilled and robust workforce in the construction industry, a sector critical to meeting the demands of our state's housing supply crisis. With housing affordability reaching crisis levels, it is imperative that we not only build more homes but also ensure that we have a workforce equipped with the necessary skills to make this vision a reality. This project does both.

The Centralized Campus presents an invaluable opportunity to grow workforce development opportunities for young adults in Central Oregon. This Oregon BOLI construction pre-apprenticeship program trains youth with hands-on construction skills and certifications initiative focuses on preparing young individuals to become career-ready workers for the construction industry.

Hayden Homes is proud to support this program and has first-hand experience of collaborating and partnering with Heart of Oregon Corps in projects that we have managed. YouthBuild has constructed 20 sleeping units for the homeless communities of Veterans Village and Oasis Village in Central Oregon. In addition, YouthBuild will be constructing a First Story 501(c)3 home in 2024 allowing a family earning less than 80% AMI a 30 year no interest loan.

YouthBuild is addressing the shortage of trained construction workers and is getting affordable housing built in our community. The campus will directly support and expand this programming. **I urge the members of the Joint Committee of Ways and Means to join Central Oregon's delegation which offer bipartisan support to this project, and endorse and support Heart of Oregon Corps' Centralized Campus.**

Sincerely,

Deborah Flagan

Deborah Flagan
Vice President of Community Engagement

2464 SW Glacier Place, Suite 110 | Redmond, Oregon 97756
800-923-6607

CCB# OR-172526 | WA-HAYDEHL937BH | ID RCE 29 144

