



February 15, 2024

Senator Kayse Jama, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court Street
SE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

The League of Oregon Cities writes in support of SB 1530-3 specifically regarding the \$65 million investment for shelter operations and \$100 million for site-specific infrastructure investments. This funding is critical to solving Oregon's housing and homelessness crisis.

Shelter Investment - \$65 million

During the COVID pandemic, Oregon began making one-time investments to expand shelter services in cities across the state. However, this funding was insufficient when meeting the needs of local shelters. While Oregon added more shelter capacity under Executive Order 23-02, a reported 47% of the shelters that existed beforehand are at risk of closing. Oregon must see those investments through to maintain the shelter beds that communities have created and need. We simply cannot afford to lose ground on the progress we have made.

The funding in SB 1530-3 is a critical step for Oregon to make progress in the homelessness crisis, ultimately stabilizing the state's existing shelter capacity and improving outcomes in our shelter system. Strengthening our shelter system is a critical interim strategy that will keep people alive as cities build enough homes to meet the demand in the state.

Infrastructure Investment - \$100 million

As cities across the state work urgently to address Oregon's housing crisis, infrastructure costs remain the largest barrier to housing development and housing affordability. Infrastructure costs are an incredible challenge for cities of all sizes across the state, whether urban, rural, suburban or frontier. Furthermore, local capacity and financing constraints mean existing state and federal infrastructure programs are out of reach for too many small and rural cities. The most powerful tool the state can deploy is to make focused infrastructure investments to support needed housing development.

Thank you for your consideration. The League of Oregon Cities urges your support for SB 1530-3.

Sincerely,

Ariel Nelson, Lobbyist
League of Oregon Cities