



April 6, 2025

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Good morning,

Thank you for the public input session you held at Warm Springs. I had registered to testify, but unfortunately the number of registrants exceeded the quantity that could be accommodated. I appreciate you providing the opportunity to submit written testimony as a substitution.

Safe and affordable housing was a frequent request of those testifying. I add my voice to those advocating funding priority for this basic human need.

The housing shortage in Oregon is beyond acute:

- the state is short 75,000 housing units
- 500,000 new units must come online in the next 20 years to meet the projected need
- home prices have doubled over the last ten years
- Oregon ranks 43rd in the nation for homeownership.

These are grim statistics that result in substandard housing conditions, instability, safety issues, forest dwelling, joblessness – and the list goes on.

I urge you to provide funding to expand Oregon's housing supply:

- Please fund the Homeownership Development Incubator Program. This will expedite entry-level homeownership production by covering pre-development costs, and will stimulate entry-level homeownership production in rural Oregon
- Please authorize a minimum of \$100 million in Article XI-Q Bonds in support of LIFT Homeownership. LIFT enables the development of homes ready for sale within 36 months of the funding reservation
 - o LIFT was the driving factor for Sisters Habitat for Humanity increasing home production to 12 homes per year from an average of less than 2 homes per year

I additionally urge you to support two programs that expand access and create a feasible pathway to homeownership:

- Funding of \$30 million in Down Payment Assistance for Culturally Responsive and Rural Organizations enables those organizations to provide an otherwise unobtainable path to

- home ownership for first-time and first-generation homebuyers
- The Oregon IDA Initiative is another critical entry point for would-be Oregon homebuyers. Please allocate stable, ongoing funding for this empowering matched savings and education program as proposed in HB 2735 or HB 3809.

Homeownership is fundamental to creating household stability, improvement in generational wealth, and strong diverse communities. The proven tools for effectively addressing these issues are before you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter Hoover

Executive Director

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