



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

February 23, 2015

The Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable David Gomberg, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room F
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson and Gomberg and Members of the Subcommittee:

We write in support of SB 5513, which increases funding for the Emergency Housing Account (EHA) and the State Homeless Assistance Program (SHAP) and provides state bond resources for the development of affordable housing.

EHA is a flexible tool used to prevent homelessness through short-term rent assistance. SHAP funds emergency shelters and related auxiliary services, which helps people who are homeless or fleeing domestic violence to quickly enter safe, stable housing and prevent homelessness. It is essential that these critical safety net programs that provide basic necessities – housing and food – are fully funded.

Despite improvements to our local and state economies, the recovery has not reached everyone. Tens of thousands of Oregonians experienced homelessness last year – 20,000 of whom were children. SB 5513 will provide state bonding to build new affordable housing for very low income families with children. Ensuring more low income families have access to safe and stable homes will benefit communities across the state by improving health outcomes, increasing public safety and helping children succeed in school.

We urge your support for investments in these critical safety net services and for the use of state bonding resources to increase the supply of affordable homes for vulnerable Oregon families.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner