



*The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 100-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.*

February 14, 2020

To: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction Committee  
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair  
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair  
Email: [jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:jwmcc.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: [HB 5202](#) - \$20 million Lottery Bonds to Maintain Affordable Housing - **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon supports the allocation of \$20 million in lottery-backed bonds to maintain existing affordable homes. We believe one of the goals of good social policy is to meet every Oregonian's basic needs for food, shelter, and access to health care. One very effective way to meet the need for affordable housing is to preserve what already exists. Communities throughout Oregon are experiencing a housing crisis, and this bill can address a critical need.

Experienced housing providers are providing flexible financing, partnerships and technical assistance to help communities preserve the state's affordable housing stock. Since 2008, the Network for Oregon Affordable Housing and the Housing Alliance have developed effective solutions to preserve existing affordable housing in Oregon. Their success is measurable with nearly \$100 million spent so far to preserve nearly 11,000 units for low-income households. Currently, there is a pipeline of preservation projects that will cost \$300 million. A \$20 million investment in 2020 from the Legislature in lottery-backed bonds will help maintain the state's supply of affordable housing, including expiring tax credit multifamily projects, public housing and manufactured home parks.

Rental housing preservation is a serious issue in our state with much at risk. These funds are needed to preserve expiring federal rent subsidies that make it possible to maintain affordable housing for persons with low-incomes. The non-renewal of these subsidies could lead to dramatic rent increases or condo conversions. Thousands of low-income renters including families, the elderly and persons with a disability could lose their homes.

Funds of \$20 million from lottery-backed bonds will ensure vulnerable Oregonians at risk of housing instability are able to remain in their homes.

**The League encourages your support of \$20 million** under this legislation to address our housing crisis by providing stable, safe and affordable places in our communities to call home. Thank you for your service and the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Gladstone  
LWVOR President

Nancy Donovan and Debbie Aiona  
LWVOR Housing Portfolio