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NEWS RELEASE

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Hazel Tylinski, <u>hazel.tylinski@oregonlegislature.gov</u> Connor Radnovich, <u>connor.radnovich@oregonlegislature.gov</u>

Legislators Advance Nearly \$2 Billion Strategic Housing Affordability and Supply Budget

The Housing Supply and Stability Budget builds on prior emergency investments and funds construction of new affordable housing units

SALEM, Ore. - Continuing the bipartisan, bicameral focus on affordable housing and homelessness throughout the 2023 Legislative Session, legislative leaders announced a nearly \$2 billion 2023-2025 Housing Affordability and Supply Budget framework made up of bills passed or approaching approval this session.

The Housing Supply and Stability Budget framework will direct an additional \$350 million toward programs established by the <u>Emergency Homelessness and Housing Response Package</u>, funding initiatives to maintain newly created shelter beds and keep people housed as they transition out of homelessness.

"Oregonians are looking for us to make real progress on the housing affordability crisis impacting communities across the state, and these timely investments will be a gamechanger," said **Representative David Gomberg (D - Lincoln & Western Benton/Lane Counties)**.

Along with this \$350 million investment, **the legislature is allocating \$600 million** in new construction of affordable, multifamily rental housing developments through the <u>Local</u> <u>Innovation and Fact Track</u> (LIFT) Rental program and **\$50 million** in net lottery bond proceeds for affordable housing preservation.

"The housing affordability crisis is one of the biggest issues facing our state, and the investments we made this session will go a long way to tackling this problem," said **Senator Aaron Woods**, (**D** - **Wilsonville**).

In addition to this baseline bonding money, the legislature is also allocating **\$900 million in private equity bonding (PAB)** as part of Senate Bill 5505. PAB allows Oregon Housing and Community Services to leverage Low Income Housing Tax Credit program funds because they require projects to be funded with 50 percent PAB. That program is often layered with LIFT and allows the state to use federal and state bonds to bring in private dollars in affordable housing deals.

"We must increase our housing supply production to address our housing affordability crisis, and the money we are investing this session will help us accomplish that goal," said **Senator Kayse Jama (D - Portland)**, chair of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development. "We will continue to work to make sure all Oregonians have a roof over their head."

This framework contains strategic, sustainable investments that advance the goals of Governor Tina Kotek's emergency order to provide shelter and safe, stable housing for all Oregonians. In particular, the Housing Supply and Stability Budget framework would:

- Prevent eviction and homelessness by investing \$55 million in rental assistance, for a total of \$81 million for the 2023-2025 biennium (Senate Bill 5511).
- Provide local communities with resources to maintain existing shelter beds (Senate Bill 5511).
- Encourage innovative strategies to increase housing production through a new construction loan guarantee fund (\$24.1 million) and policy changes that include making it easier to convert commercial buildings to residential and to encourage middle housing (House Bill 3395).
- Fund recommendations from the <u>Joint Task Force on Addressing Racial Disparities in</u> <u>Home Ownership</u> to increase home ownership (House Bill 3395 and Senate Bill 5511).

- Invest in grants to organizations to develop community based farmworker housing (House Bill 3395).
- Allocate \$4 million for housing assistance for college students (House Bill 3395).
- Designate \$5 million for homeless services and assistance to members of Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Tribes (Senate Bill 5511).

"This session, we promised to come together to focus on getting people stable, affordable housing, and to sustain that focus throughout the session," said **Representative Maxine Dexter** (**D** - **NW & Downtown Portland, Linn Benton & Cathedral Park**). "With this set of investments, we are delivering on that promise."

This announcement comes as the House passes another key bill to address the housing crisis, <u>Senate Bill 919</u> 43-10. After passing <u>the Senate</u> earlier this week, this bill heads to the Governor's desk. It will help address Oregon's housing crisis, and particularly the shortage of "middle housing" by granting new tools for local governments to incentivize new construction. Middle housing is a range of house-scale buildings with multiple units including, duplexes, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), triplexes, quadplexes and cottage clusters.

Since the first day of the 2023 legislative session, legislative leaders promised **bold**, evidencebased reforms and investments to increase housing supply, protect vulnerable renters, open more pathways to home ownership across the state, and get homeless Oregonians safe and stable housing. This budget framework delivers on that commitment.

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