

From the Offices of the

## President of the Oregon Senate &

### Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Legislature Advances \$376M Investment in Emergency Housing Stabilization and Production Package

**SALEM, Ore.** – Today, the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development approved \$376 million in investments for the Emergency Housing Stability and Production Package (Senate Bill 1537, Senate Bill 1530) and House Bill 4134). It passed on a bipartisan vote and now moves to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for further consideration.

"As we work to solve Oregon's homelessness crisis, this package builds on the bipartisan action legislators took in recent sessions to assist renters, boost housing production, and support homeless shelters. We all want to reduce housing costs for Oregonians and get people living on the streets into housing," said **Sen. Aaron Woods (D-Wilsonville)**, co-chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development. "These targeted investments are going to make a big difference in Oregon's housing and homelessness crisis."

"Finally, the Legislature has come together to address not just homelessness, but housing on every level. I am proud to work side by side on this bicameral, bipartisan effort to invest in needed housing and infrastructure in all corners of our state," said **Rep. Vikki Breese-Iverson (R-Prineville)**, vice-chair of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness.

In addition to the investments made in Senate Bill 1530, Senate Bill 1537 — introduced at the request of Governor Tina Kotek — creates a new revolving loan fund to make interest-free loans

to local governments to help finance production of affordable housing and moderate income housing projects. The fund will be seeded with \$75 million.

SB 1537 also creates and allocates **\$10.6** million toward the Housing Accountability and Production Office to support local governments as they work to achieve their housing production goals. An additional **\$3** million will be directed toward the Housing Infrastructure Support Fund to provide technical assistance to small and rural cities for grant writing and other purposes.

House Bill 4134 includes **\$7.1 million** in additional direct allocations to cities for shovel-ready projects.

In total, the Emergency Housing Stability and Production Package commits \$376 million to address the most urgent housing needs facing Oregon.

"To solve this housing crisis, legislators must get creative in how we get there. These investments, in tandem with the creative financing options outlined in SB 1537, are a good first step," said **Sen. Dick Anderson (R-Lincoln City)**, vice-chair of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development. "As a tireless advocate for local control, I'm glad to see these targeted investments going directly to communities throughout Oregon, not just Portland."

### Housing and Homelessness — \$131 million

The Emergency Housing Stability and Production Package makes investments directed at the immediate needs of Oregonians struggling with homelessness, having trouble paying rent, or needing a place to live while recovering from a substance use disorder.

- \$65 million for to fund emergency shelters, Project Turnkey sites and navigation centers
- \$34 million for homelessness prevention services, through Oregon Eviction Diversion and Prevention and Eviction Prevention Rapid Response Programs with 30% set aside for culturally responsive organizations
- \$7 million to the Urban League of Portland for homelessness prevention services
- \$18 million to maintain and expand capacity for 27 recovery housing projects
- \$5 million into individual development accounts that can be used by first-time homebuyers
- \$1 million to Community Warehouse to support the furnishing of reused household goods to low-income residents
- \$1 million to Seeding Justice for education and support of tenants at risk of rent increase or possible eviction

### Housing Infrastructure and Production — \$123.55 million

To support Oregon's ambitious housing production goals, legislators looked for projects statewide that the Legislature could assist with infrastructure investments and existing sites that could be purchased and developed into affordable housing.

- \$94.3 million in direct allocation to cities for 44 infrastructure projects across the state to support shovel-ready housing production, including:
  - \$3 million to the City of Cottage Grove to install water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure for a 35-acre parcel the city owns for housing development
  - \$3 million to the City of Stayton for sewer infrastructure improvements along Ida
    Street and Marion from Evergreen to 4th
  - \$4 million to the Warm Springs Housing Authority for interior and exterior rehabilitation of two-, three- and four-bedroom houses used as rental units on the Warm Springs Reservation
  - \$6 million to Prosper Portland for the extension of NW Johnson Street and associated water and sewer utilities to support the construction of new affordable housing units
  - \$3 million to the City of Lincoln City for a booster pump station for Spring Lake housing development
  - \$3 million to the City of Siletz for wastewater treatment plant upgrades
- \$29.25 million for land acquisitions for affordable housing:
  - \$25 million to the Albina Vision Trust for the purchase and redevelopment of a property on N Dixon Street in Portland for development of affordable housing
  - \$3 million to Unite Oregon for the purchase of a property on E Burnside Street in Portland for development of affordable housing
  - \$1.25 million to the Center for African Immigrants and Refugees Organization for the purchase of a property on SE Stark Street for development of affordable housing

"Addressing our state's housing crisis is the number one priority for Oregonians. But if we want to build more housing, we're going to need to invest in critical infrastructure projects to do so, " said **Rep. David Gomberg (D-Otis)**, co-chair of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development. "This bipartisan proposal will accelerate desperately needed housing production in nearly every corner of Oregon - including our rural communities."

### Healthy and Safe Homes — \$24.5 million

As Oregonians face incidents of extraordinary weather — from extreme heat to devastating wildfires to ice storms — Oregonians need to have safe, healthy homes or shelters to stay out of the elements.

- \$15 million to the Healthy Homes Repair Fund to support home improvements to lower energy usage and make homes safer
- \$4 million to the Residential Heat Pump Fund in the Department of Environmental Quality
- \$3.5 million for air conditioners and air filters provided on an emergency basis to at-risk individuals
- \$2 million to provide support for warming or cooling emergency shelters