**Email your legislators in support of LIFT:** NOW is the time to make sure that general obligation bonds for affordable housing make it into the final legislative budget for the next biennium. **Specifically, we're asking Habitat affiliates to advocate for $250 million in General Obligation Bonds for LIFT — with 20% set aside for homeownership.**

* Find your legislators here: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html>
* Use the template below as a guide. For additional examples, previous testimony for LIFT funds is listed here: <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Testimony/SB5505>

Dear Rep. NAME or Sen. NAME,

[Introduce yourself, your affiliate, and the area you serve.]

I’m writing today to encourage your support of affordable housing in this coming year’s budget. Specifically, I’m advocating for $250 million in General Obligation Bonds to build new affordable housing through the LIFT program, including 20% for homeownership.

In Oregon, 1 in 7 households spend half or more of their income on housing, and the economic impacts from the coronavirus pandemic are exacerbating housing affordability and stability challenges for many families across our state. At our organization, we’ve also seen the price of land, labor and construction materials rise year after year — which is why we turn to innovative programs like LIFT, which has enabled our organization to expand capacity and create permanently affordable homes.

To date, Habitat for Humanity affiliates have successfully applied for LIFT funding to offset the cost to build 138 homes that will remain permanently affordable for purchase to Oregonians earning up to 80% of the area median income. This program has enabled Habitat for Humanity affiliates of every size to expand their home building capacity.

[Talk about how LIFT has personally affected your affiliate. Here are some examples:

* If you have applied for and received a LIFT project, please share the details! Where was the project built? How many people does it serve? Who lives there? Why are you proud of this project?
* If you have plans to apply for LIFT in 2022 or 2023, please share the details! Where will the project be built? If you had money today, could you start construction soon? Who will be served? Share your excitement and enthusiasm about what it is you might build if we had more resources.]

Since 2015, the Legislature has committed millions in general obligation bonds to the LIFT program, and more than 3,600 affordable homes have been or are being built. With additional resources, we can support more of this work and build projects across Oregon to provide safe and stable places to call home for members of our communities.

We urge your support for the inclusion of $250 million for affordable housing, including 20% for homeownership, in Article XI-Q General Obligation bonds in SB 5505.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

[Signature]