



April 24, 2015

Chair Barnhart and members of the House Revenue Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 2690-1 as a key volunteer for the Columbia Gorge Habitat for Humanity. We have built 25 homes (20 in Oregon) in the local area and are in the process of starting another one in Oregon. The land for the just completed home was purchased in 2011 and we have paid property tax since then. Construction started in May of 2014 and we will dedicate this home next month.

We know that affordable home ownership provides opportunities for families to thrive and helps to stabilize the communities we live in.

We wish we could build more homes since there is such a need for affordable housing. Our building rate is dependent on resources and volunteers. Having an tax exemption from the time the land is acquired to home sale would enable us to serve more families more quickly and ensure that we can build more homes in our service area.

Our affiliate most often purchase bare land at the current market rate through donations and some grants. The overall pre-development process up until permits can take 2-3 years with another year to build the home.

Thank you for considering this legislation.

Corliss Marsh

Columbia Gorge Habitat for Humanity