

May 6, 2015

Capital Construction Sub-Committee of Ways and Means  
Oregon Housing and Community Services Bond Package

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Read, Members of the Committee:

I am Sally Bovett, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County, and a Board member of Habitat for Humanity of Oregon. Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County builds/rehabs affordable housing for low-income families whose family income is between 30 – 60% of the Average Median Income. When families become homeowners, in affordable and stable housing, they are able to put down roots in their community and provide much needed stability for their family. They are healthier, make better employees and their children do better in school.

This historic investment of \$100 million for affordable homes for low-income families could not come at a better time. We know that our communities can't succeed without these affordable homes, and without this investment by the State of Oregon in affordable, low-income housing, many struggling families will be forced to continue to rent often substandard housing, forced to pay over 50% of their income on housing costs.

The proposed \$100 million housing development bond package will allow us, as a housing developer, to be innovative, flexible and sensitive to our community needs. Statewide, the funds will build an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 new homes, which could affordably house 12,000 to 16,000 people. This funding can and will be a game changer for many Oregon families, and we look forward to seeing the impact we could have here in Lincoln County.

We can choose to invest in people and create a better future for the next generation. We urge your careful consideration of, and support for, this proposed historic investment in homes for Oregon.

Thank you for your service.

Sally Bovett

