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To Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Sanchez, Vice Chair Olson, and Members of the Committee-

I am writing today to express Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East's full support of HB 2570, which will create a revolving loan fund to build more affordable homes in the state of Oregon.

Habitat builds and repairs homes with local, hardworking families struggling to make ends meet. We currently serve 50 families a year in the Portland Metro region—over 90% of which are people of color. At Habitat, we have the tools, expertise, and ability to build more homes for hardworking families; we just need additional capital and resources to get there. With HB 2570 and the new Affordable Homeownership Grant Program, Habitat for Humanity could double annual new home production.

We feel the impact of our state's housing crisis each day. During our last homeowner selection round, over 300 applicants applied for homes through Habitat. This was more than double the applicants we had the previous round, as more and more families are seeking safe, affordable and decent homes in Portland.

Homeownership is a powerful tool to help families achieve lasting stability in housing and remain in their communities. We would love your support of HB 2570 because everyone deserves a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home.

In partnership,

Steve Messinetti
CEO