

Representative Olson, it was a pleasure spending time with you last Thursday during Habitat for Humanity's visits to the Oregon Legislature. I write in strong support of HB 2570 which your committee hears this Thursday 3/9/2017.

Thank you so much for you and your co-Chairs on the House Human Services and Housing Committee giving HB2570 a hearing. While I will not be able to attend, you will hear much testimony detailing how Habitat for Humanity has and continues to change lives in a permanent manner through partnering with those hardworking Oregonians that cannot by themselves ever enjoy the stability, safety and financial security that homeownership brings, and how a renewed focus on home ownership can begin to alleviate some of the greatest crises facing Oregon today.

I would ask that you and the committee members support HB 2570 by passing it out of committee onto the House floor for a full vote with strong recommendation. It's not often that the Legislature has the opportunity to provide a modest one-time disbursement that has the potential to serve so many people in such a meaningful manner, not just today but well into the future.

As the rental crisis grows, the need for affordable home ownership options becomes greater and HB 2570 allows the Legislature to seed something that will grow and grow over time with no further financial assistance from public monies. With the fund in place that HB 2570 creates, we can aggressively leverage private, corporate and foundation partners to grow that fund, allowing Habitat for Humanity efforts to greatly increase throughout the state (projections show that Habitat can serve upwards of 33% more families with this fund in place.)

Much more will be said Thursday. Thank you in advance for your support and great work on behalf of the State of Oregon and our amazing District! I look forward to running into you at Pop's sometime soon.

Rick Medlen

Founder/Chief Executive Officer

GarageSkins, Inc.