



*Help build it!*

March 8, 2017

House Human Services and Housing Committee

Re: HB2570 & HB2006

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

My name is Richard Litts. I am the Executive Director for Coos Bay Area Habitat for Humanity and am writing today in support of HB2570 and HB2006. Our mission is to serve low-income community housing needs by constructing modest, affordable homes that allows families to take a step out of the poverty cycle. We do this through donations, no-interest loans, education, and many, many hours of volunteer labor. The assistance that the two Bills will provide to get more families into these types of programs can't be overstated, nor the long-term benefits to the families, their children and the community.

We completed our 24<sup>th</sup> home just in time to get Jess Ross and his family moved in by Christmas. Jess was a construction worker who fell off a 6 foot scaffold, and became quadriplegic due to a severe neck injury. They lived in a run-down trailer that was totally inadequate for Jess. His wheelchair was too large to fit through most places in the trailer, so most of his time was spent in a bed in the very small living room. He couldn't even get into the bathroom to take a shower.

Coos Bay Area Habitat for Humanity worked together with Jess's family and many local businesses and volunteers to build a completely ADA compliant house. This included a roll-in shower that has allowed Jess to take a real shower for the first time in a year; a simple pleasures that most of us take for granted. In addition, his two girls will now have a safe and healthy home to proudly invite friends to and a place where they can grow stronger as a family. The mental benefits of having a safe and stable home to come back to everyday are as important as the roof over their heads.

On behalf of Coos Bay Area Habitat for Humanity, and all the people in our community that are struggling to lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty, I ask for your support on both HB2570 and HB2006. Everyone deserves a safe, stable, affordable place to call home.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Litts", written over a white background.

Richard Litts

Executive Director  
Coos Bay Area Habitat for Humanity

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