



P.O. Box 11527
1478 NE Killingsworth St.
Portland, Oregon 97211
tel: 503.287.9529 fax: 503.287.4649
CCB #100310
habitatportlandmetro.org

March 24, 2017

To: Senator Mark Hass, Chair
Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue
900 Court Street NE, Hearing Room A
Salem, OR 97301

From: Steve Messinetti
CEO Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East

RE: In Support of SB 827

Dear Senator Hass,

I am writing in support of SB827, an important bill that would allow cities to authorize a 10 year tax exemption for low and moderate-income homebuyers of existing units (as opposed to just newly constructed units). It would also allow cities to authorize a 10 year tax exemption for low-income property owners at risk of losing their homes.

Property tax obligations are a leading barrier to helping low income households and people of color buy their first home and a leading cause of involuntary displacement among our current low-income homeowner communities.

Homeownership is the single most powerful tool we have to stabilize a family and avoid involuntary displacement. It is the most powerful tool we have to combat the asset gap that exists between the middle-income Americans and lower-income Americans.

Passing SB827 will allow more Portland families to become successful homeowners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Messinetti".

Steve Messinetti