



To: Ways & Means Natural Resources subcommittee
From: Steve Messinetti, President & CEO, Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East
RE: HB2007
Date: June 21, 2017

Dear Members of the Ways & Means Natural Resources subcommittee,

As the President and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East, I am pleased to submit testimony to the committee in support of HB2007, specifically with -6 amendments.

Just this year alone, Habitat has had over 700 Portland households come to us for help. We support this bill because the simple fact is that we need more affordable homes and we need them now. With the record level increases in rents and price of homes, underserved populations are especially vulnerable.

Oregonians desperately need more housing, and costs are rising because there are not enough homes to go around. In fact the average two-bedroom rent in Portland is now \$1,800 a month but the average renter earns only \$36,000 a year.

HB2700 will help in several key ways, by:

- Prioritizing affordable housing building permits,
- Streamlining local government procedures to make it easier to provide more housing, and especially affordable housing,
- Allowing additional dwelling units (ADUs) and duplexes in single-family neighborhoods,
- Allowing religious institutions to use their property to develop affordable housing, and
- Introducing higher levels of transparency in the historic designation process and closing loopholes that circumvent public participation.

HB 2007 takes significant steps to help meet Oregon's housing challenges while ensuring we move toward more mixed income neighborhoods where people of all incomes have access to opportunity.

Thank you for your support of this much-needed bill. “

Sincerely,
Steve Messinetti
President and CEO
Habitat for Humanity Portland/Metro East