



We build strength, stability, self-reliance *and* shelter.

March 12, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

RE: Support for Senate Bill 936

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Rick Rogers and I am writing on behalf of Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity to urge your strong support for Senate Bill 936.

SB 936 would:

- Allocate \$100 million each biennium to subsidize the development of 500 homes with a maximum subsidy of \$200,000 per home.
- Improve the existing Land Acquisition Revolving Loan Program or create a new fund of \$30 million to purchase 200 parcels for homeownership development per biennium at zero percent interest.
- Allocate \$20 million to OHCS to invest in community-based, innovative models for increasing homeownership in culturally responsive ways.

The underproduction of housing and shortage of entry-level homes are driving up unaffordability for everyone and impeding efforts to close racial, ethnic and generational gaps in homeownership and wealth-building opportunities. Oregon's Housing Needs Analysis makes it clear: **The state must invest in the production of new homes.** As homeownership providers, Habitat for Humanity organizations have a proven track record of successfully leveraging similar funding resources, such as Local Innovation and Fast Track (LIFT) for Homeownership, to double or triple local production of homes sold to low- and moderate-income families and individuals in Oregon communities of all sizes.

We have successfully utilized LIFT to build decent, safe, affordable housing in our service area.

Organizations like Newberg Area Habitat for Humanity are well-positioned to help meet Oregon's supply shortfalls, but we need critical investments like the allocations included in Senate Bill 936.

Thank you for your consideration and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Rick Rogers", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rick Rogers
Executive Director