



April 10, 2025

Re: Support for homeownership investments in HB 5006

Dear Co-Chairs Sanchez and Lieber, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means,

My name is Carly Colgan, and I am writing on behalf of Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity to urge your strong support for investments in affordable homeownership.

Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity is part of the Unlocking Homeownership Coalition, a group of more than 40 nonprofit and for-profit organizations working together to expand first-time homeownership access for thousands of Oregonians. Homeownership is the key to building household stability, generational wealth and strong communities, yet it remains out of reach for far too many Oregon households. We are pushing for smart, people-focused investments and policies in 2025 that will make a meaningful difference in addressing our state's housing crisis.

We're asking you to prioritize investments in affordable homeownership. These proven programs will:

1. Boost the production of entry-level homes statewide.
2. Expand access to homeownership, particularly for first-time and first-generation buyers.

First, we urge your support for two programs to expand our state's supply:

- **Homeownership Development Incubator Program:** This **\$16.9 million investment** in the Homeownership Development Incubator Program will expedite entry-level homeownership production by covering pre-development costs, including plans and permits; support construction of homes affordable to middle income households, earning 80-120 percent of the area median income (AMI); stimulate entry-level homeownership production in rural Oregon; and expand culturally responsive homeownership opportunities, including on sovereign tribal lands.
- **\$100 million in Article XI-Q Bond proceeds will support LIFT Homeownership**, expanding permanently affordable homeownership opportunities for Oregon households who earn up to 80 percent AMI. This program stimulates the rapid development of multi-home sites, with homes ready for sale within 36 months of receiving a funding reservation. Recent program improvements will ensure that this supply accelerator will function as intended to stimulate rural homeownership development, as well as denser urban developments.

Second, please support two programs that expand access and create pathways to homeownership:

- **\$30 million in Down Payment Assistance for Culturally Responsive and Rural Organizations** will enable organizations to open the door to homeownership for an estimated 1,100 first-time and first-generation homebuyers, helping them plant roots in their communities.
- **The Oregon IDA Initiative** is another critical entry point for would-be Oregon homebuyers. We urge you to ensure stable, ongoing funding for this impactful matched savings and education program, as proposed in HB 2735 or HB 3809.

Thank you for your leadership and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carly Colgan".

Carly Colgan
Chief Executive Officer
Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity

We build strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable homeownership

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