



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

February 2, 2026

To: House Committee on Revenue

**RE: Support for HB 4125**

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Reschke, Vice-Chair Walters and Members of the Committee:

My name is Shannon Tennant and I am the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Oregon. On behalf of our organization and the 23 local Habitat for Humanity affiliates we serve, we urge your strong support for House Bill 4125. This timely reform of Oregon's budget forecast process will bolster the state's ability to make key investments in coming years.

At Habitat for Humanity of Oregon, we strengthen the systems, resources and know-how needed to expand access to stable and affordable homeownership statewide. Becoming a homeowner allows families and individuals to establish deep roots in their communities. Children who remain in the same school district year after year have greater opportunities to thrive academically. Habitat homeowners can rest assured that their monthly housing costs are predictable and affordable, laying a strong foundation for economic resilience in uncertain times. Households who partner with Habitat for Humanity to complete critical home repairs experience the relief of knowing that their home will stay healthy and structurally sound. Amidst the most challenging of circumstances, together we can build Oregon communities we are even prouder to call home.

HB 4125 will substantially improve the careful stewardship of our state's resources. The investment **categories specified in Section 5 of the bill** will directly strengthen Oregon families and communities. The One-Time Emergencies and Finance Fund will help Oregon communities respond in a timely way to natural disasters, such as flooding or wildfires. In addition, these funds may be used to reduce our state's debt burden, including the payment of debt service and the costs of capital projects for which the state would typically issue bonds. **Most importantly to Habitat for Humanity, HB 4125 will allow the state to make direct investments in affordable housing construction without the need to bond or take on new debt. This will help us tackle the housing crisis head-on.**

Recent improvements to the LIFT Homeownership program have led to the rapid expansion of sites under pre-development in urban, suburban and rural Oregon communities. HB 4125 will allow the state to expand effective housing development programs like this one in a more cost-effective way. By stretching each dollar further, we can more rapidly increase the supply of entry-level homes for sale that will remain permanently affordable, using a land trust model. For all these reasons, we urge your strong support for HB 4125.

Thank you for your leadership and careful consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shannon M. Tennant".

Shannon M. Tennant (FKA: Shannon M. Vilhauer), Executive Director