

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair Andersen and Members of the Committee:

My name is Eric Richardson and I currently serve as Board president for Habitat for Humanity Oregon.

Oregon has one of the lowest homeownership rates in the nation. According to Census data, Oregon's homeownership rate hovers near 64 percent, ranking Oregon 43rd in the nation. We can do better [[American Census Survey Homeownership Data](#)]. On behalf of the many Oregonians who are currently unable to find affordable homes we ask for your support of this progressive action to help Oregon generate solutions for our families in need. . Homeownership is a priority for the majority of Oregonians. It is a time-tested means of building generational wealth and a reliable way to improve racial and economic equity. As Oregon strives to significantly increase housing production, a statewide homeownership goal will keep housing and homeownership top of mind for decision-makers at all levels of government. Please join Habitat for Humanity in support of HB 2698 to establish a Statewide Homeownership Goal

Thank you,

Eric Richardson  
Board President HFHO