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Date: Monday, March 10, 2025

Re: SB684

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony regarding SB684. My name is Kat Mahoney and I am an attorney in Portland, Oregon and live in northeast Portland. I am also a board member of Portland: Neighbors Welcome. I'm writing in support of SB 684 to establish a Construction Revolving Fund to provide below-market rate loans for mixed-income housing developments with permanently affordable units.

I grew up in Brooklyn, New York and was raised in a mixed income neighborhood. I grew up in a small apartment in a 6-story building with my brother and parents. Around us were other apartment buildings ranging from 4 to 6 stories. We also had brownstones, limestones, and 2 story wooden homes near us. The neighborhood was a diverse mix of income tiers. My neighborhood also was a mix of immigrant families, first generation Americans, and some who had roots dating back to the 1600s. Having a mixed income and middle income housing allowed for a diverse community and myriad of shared experiences. As a kid, it did not matter if your friend lived in a brownstone or was around the corner in a subsidized apartment building with their grandmother and parents. We all played, we all hung out, and we all grew up and cared about our 'hood. I still know people who live there and what has not changed is the diverse array of people - not based just on income but on culture and experiences. There are still block parties, still parents who watch the kids play in the school yard and watch others' kids. There are still bodegas who are now owned by the children. There are still bodega cats much to my happiness.

Oregon a population growth that reminds me New York in the late 1980s. The growing pains are here. We need to ensure that folks who want to live in Oregon are able to without feeling squeezed. The high interest rates represent one of the barriers to construction of new homes. I urge you to support SB 684 to direct the state to address this barrier and help build more housing across the state.

Thank you for your time,
Kathleen Mahoney