

Submitter: William Hanbey
On Behalf Of: Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5702

I am Treasurer for the Bend-Redmond Habitat for Humanity. Funding under SB 5702 is essential for our organization. It is essential those who provide affordable housing. We have relied on this funding and other sources to be able to construct and house over 250 families in the last 26 years. We are fortunate to qualify and receive funding through the Capital Construction Budget now before your committee. In recent years, this source has enabled us to almost double the number of residences we have been able to provide since the COVID years. We are actively pursuing funding to enable us to build at least 25 homes in this budget cycle with a goal to increase that number substantially in the next three years.

We know that we are not the only non-profit housing organizations whose sole aim is to provide funding for folks earning 80% or less than the AMI. As you likely know, all construction costs, including the land, have increased substantially in the last few years with even greater costs in the future since most of the lumber we use comes from Canada. While I realize that the State Budget is under extreme pressure, enabling more folks to have homes has returns on the investment that far exceeds most of the other line-items in your proposed budget. Home owners pay taxes, they buy goods and services within their community and increase the economic welfare of the entire area where they live. Their children thrive in school, and later contribute to the economy of this State and the Country as a whole.

I urge you to support the full funding of this Bill.

Wm. Michael Hanbey