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February 12, 2024

To: Senate Committee on Housing and Development

RE: Support for Senate Bill 1530

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Katie Curry, and I am writing on behalf McMinnville Area Habitat for Humanity to express our strong support for key components of Senate Bill 1530 that will help to expand access to affordable homeownership in Oregon.

Our local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International serves most of Yamhill County, including McMinnville, Amity, Carlton, Lafayette, Sheridan, Willamina, and Yamhill. We built our first affordable house in 1991 and have since built 67 homes that have been sold to low-income partners in our community. We are currently developing the Aspire Community in McMinnville, a Habitat for Humanity development with 34-lots going to home buyers who fall into the 40-65% AMI range for Yamhill County.

SB 1530, Section 1 (4) and (5) allocate funding critical to our work in the community:

- \$15 million in flexible funding to support affordable homeownership development
- \$5 million in matching funds for the Individual Development Account (IDA) Initiative

The underproduction of housing and shortage of entry-level homes are driving up unaffordability for everyone and impeding efforts to close racial, ethnic and generational gaps in homeownership and wealth-building opportunities. Oregon's Housing Needs Analysis makes it clear: The state must invest in the production of new homes. This includes entry level homes for sale.

With the burden of raising funds to build homes, McMinnville Area Habitat for Humanity has historically built and sold 1-2 homes per year. In 2024, we plan to finish and sell 6 homes to low-income home buyers and make significant progress on 2 more. ***This is due to the HDIP funding that we applied for and received in 2023.*** This has been a significant game changer for us, to be able to provide so many more opportunities during a time when the shortage of affordable homes seems burdensome. We implore you provide flexible funding to help alleviate the affordable housing crisis.

As homeownership providers, Habitat for Humanity has a proven track record of successfully leveraging government funds to increase the production of homes sold to low- and moderate-income households

in Oregon communities of all sizes. **We urge your strong support for this \$15 million investment to help us increase the support of entry level homes for sale.**

As homeownership providers, the Habitat for Humanity network urges your targeted investment in key programs that expand opportunities for Oregonians to plant roots in their communities and begin building intergenerational wealth. Habitat for Humanity of Oregon and the 24 local Habitat for Humanity affiliates working across the state are well-positioned to help meet Oregon's supply shortfalls and expand support for Oregonians entering the housing market for the first time. Your support of the critical investments included in Senate Bill 1530 will ensure that we succeed together.

Thank you for your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Curry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Katie" on top and "Curry" below it, though the two words are connected.

Katie Curry, Executive Director
McMinnville Area Habitat for Humanity