

Chairman Jama and Committee,

I support HB1530 and specifically the financial provisions that support furniture share warehouses that assist Oregonians that have 80% LMI and/or are survivors of natural disasters.

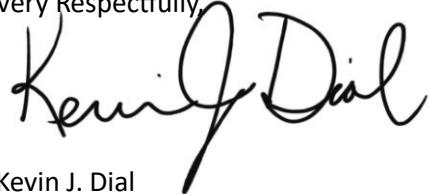
My background is from the wildfire recovery side where we were rehousing residents in the Santiam Canyon following the 2020 Beachie Creek and Lionshead fires. In this effort, I was fortunate to work with the Furniture Share in Albany, Oregon. This agency quickly saw the need that was created after that disaster, and they then took immediate action to correct the shortfall in housing furnishings that occurred. Furniture Share secured a larger warehouse location, then started contacting the residents of their area to start the collection of these much-needed items.

Following the initial onslaught of requests, Furniture Share then went into a phased approach where they provide full household sets of furniture and appliances to families that had rebuilt their homes but had no more resources to then furnish the new home. To do this, they worked directly with disaster case managers to find and fill the exact needs of these families.

To categorize this effort as heroic is an understatement. The work and genuine care that was put into rebuilding the lives of wildfire survivors is something that this team does daily for the most vulnerable residents of our community.

Funding for housing is critical, but to stop before the dwelling is furnished means this house is not yet a home and the mission isn't finished. I strongly encourage your support and funding within HB1530 for furniture assistance agencies that will fill this need in communities across Oregon.

Very Respectfully,



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