

Sisters Habitat lobbies in Salem

Sisters Habitat for Humanity representatives participated in the second annual “Habitat at the Capitol” lobby day last Wednesday and Thursday in Salem.

Thirty people were organized by Habitat Oregon from affiliates around the state. They testified on a panel at a hearing of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing and participated in 42 legislative visits to ask for support of a statewide mortgage-leveraging program.

House Bill 4064 would set up a structure to allow local affiliates to sell mortgages to Habitat Oregon. This would provide much-needed capital to build more homes or buy land. The Habitat “lobbyists” also asked their representatives to support the repeal of ORS 197.309, an Oregon law that prevents local governments from using an affordable-housing strategy called inclusionary zoning. Oregon and Texas are the only states which do not allow local communities to decide if they want to require developers to set aside a percentage of homes for people with low incomes.



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Sharlene Weed, Clark Brody, Robin Tawney, Dwight Krumme, Korina Huffman and Gene Whisnet in Salem for “Habitat at the Capitol.”

The Sisters Habitat contingent was made up of Executive Director Sharlene Weed, Board President Clark Brody, and homeowner/ReStore Manager Robin Tawney. They met with Representative John Huffman’s wife, Korina; Representative Gene Whisnant; and Senator Ted Ferrioli.

“It was fun to spend time at the Capitol advocating for Habitat. We had a warm reception from our

representatives” Weed said. “The mortgage leveraging bill has overwhelming support. If the leveraging bill does pass, we will be able to sell a mortgage every couple years. This will allow Sisters Habitat to build an additional house or purchase additional land for building.” Weed noted that “the repeal of the inclusionary zoning legislation looks to have a more difficult path with the builders’ lobby against it.”

Habitat announces new board president

Former Habitat Board President Toni Landis passed the gavel to Clark Brody last month, sharing how heartwarming it is for her to be involved with such a giving community.

She will continue as a board member and member of the building committee.

Brody steps into the president’s role after serving as vice-president in 2015.

“Our hearts are knit together by a common purpose. Collectively each of us contributes to a cause much bigger than ourselves. Our greatest reward is seeing lives changed through home ownership. My greatest hope is that we accomplish our mission with integrity,” Brody said when he addressed the Habitat staff and board members at the January board meeting.

The former music teacher, principal, and deputy superintendent of the Oregon Department of Education has lived in the Sisters area with his wife, Barbara, since 2010. He also supports Circle of Friends and has enjoyed singing with the Sisters High Desert Chorale in the past. Habitat also welcomed new board members Roger Fairfield and Chuck Harper.



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Toni Landis passed the gavel to Clark Brody.



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