



State Rep. David Gomberg—House District 10
State Rep. Gene Whisnant—House District 55

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Reps. Gomberg and Whisnant Pass Bipartisan Bill to Support Low-Income Housing

Salem, OR—On Monday State Rep. David Gomberg (D-Lincoln City) and State Rep. Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) carried House Bill 2690-A successfully on the House floor with a final vote of 57 to 1. This bipartisan legislation provides a property tax exemption for proven nonprofit housing developers that acquire land for the purpose of building low-income housing.

“Many of us have constituents - maybe even family or friends - who have experienced housing insecurity or homelessness,” stated Rep. Gomberg. “This bill will make it easier for groups like Habitat for Humanity to provide decent affordable housing to people in that situation.”

HB 2690-A allows nonprofits to hold the land tax-exempt for seven years from the time of application.

“The seven-year exemption window, with an extra three years for special circumstances, gives groups like Habitat extra support whenever the economy is weak,” said Rep. Whisnant. “Cities and counties will recover the taxes on the undeveloped land when the family moves into the home. This bill will provide affordable housing for urban and rural communities.”

The bill was developed collaboratively with Habitat for Humanity, the Association of Oregon Counties, the Oregon Tax Assessors Association, the City of Beaverton and the League of Oregon Cities. It includes sideboards that ensure only proven low-income housing developers qualify, and a strong clawback provision to keep non-profits accountable to their development goals.

For information contact Rep. Gomberg or Rep. Whisnant at rep.davidgomberg@state.or.us and rep.genewhisnant@state.or.us respectively.

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