

March 11, 2024

Dear House Committee on Appropriations,

I am writing to you on behalf of Rutland Habitat for Humanity, which provides affordable homeownership opportunities for income sensitive people in Rutland County.

We are writing in support of the [House Committee on General and Housing's recommendation](#) of a one year appropriation of \$100,000 to Habitat for Humanity.

These funds will be used to hire a statewide coordinator who will help the Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the state build more housing units for affordable homeownership more quickly and more efficiently. A statewide coordinator will leverage state funding to pursue and administer larger grants and funding opportunities, provide a unified voice for perpetually affordable homeownership, pursue bulk discounts from vendors and suppliers for VT affiliates, and provide administrative support. We estimate that the additional capacity will enable VT Habitat for Humanity affiliates to build 20 new units in FY 25.

We are also writing in support of a \$25 million dollar appropriation for the Middle-Income Homeownership Development Program as included in H.829. Last FY Middle Income Development Funding grants funded VT Habitat for Humanity affiliates to build 15 new affordable homes for low income homeownership with an average subsidy of \$73,413.13 per unit. With these funds Rutland Habitat for Humanity built two single family perpetually affordable homes for two income sensitive single mothers who each have two children.

Thank you for considering our requests. We would be happy to come and speak with your committee in more depth about how these funds will help us build more affordable homeownership opportunities in VT.

Sincerely,

Rebekah M. Stevens

Executive Director

Rutland Habitat for Humanity

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