

Submitter: John Elizalde
On Behalf Of: Interfaith Alliance on Poverty
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure: SB976

Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill, changes to the Mortgage Interest Deduction. I am writing to support making these changes as means to provide funding in response to the state's housing crisis and to provide an element of justice for those in the state who don't have the resources to take advantage fo the mortgage interest deduction.

I am a member of First Unitarian Church Portland, a founding member of the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty. Our committee on hunger and homelessness has urged us to express our support for SB 976. This bill removes two parts of the state's mortgage interest deduction, the largest housing subsidy in the state.

Currently people of any income level receive this deduction for second homes. The mortgage interest deduction, an artifact of decades gone by, was intended to help home buyers afford to 'reach the American dream' of home ownership. Currently, the deductions in question provide benefits to people who have plenty of money and credit do not need such incentives or rewards.

This committee should support SB 976. Passage will provide funding for a housing support account and facilitate more Oregonians to afford housing, any housing.

Thank you for your service to our state and for supporting this bill.

John Elizalde