

Thank you Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich and members of the committee, for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 3462. My name is **Beverly DeLeonardis** and I reside in Central Point, Oregon. I have been a member of Unite Oregon and Unite Oregon Action since its inception. I presently am on the C4 board of Unite Oregon Action and part of the Justice for All committee.

In 2020, fires broke out all over Jackson County. Many of us were evacuated for days before being allowed back to see if we had homes or they were destroyed. The town of Phoenix and Talent were almost completely wiped out from the Almeda wildfire. Both communities are still struggling to recover. Affordable workforce housing was a problem before but now it is a paramount issue. Many of our tax paying workforce that live and work in these communities are undocumented. They worked in our fields, forests and towns and many of these were low income jobs. The people that were wiped out lived in trailers, mobile homes, apartments and small homes. They lost everything, homes, possessions and jobs. In some cases, they even lost loved pets that were left behind in their homes while they went to work. Some undocumented immigrants had no fire insurance because they were paid low wages and could not afford the premiums. The insurance companies also would not insure older trailers or mobile homes.

Unite Oregon works with immigrants both documented and undocumented. Our survey shows that many undocumented people still face housing issues due to lack of documentation and language barriers. HB 3462 would address some of these emergency housing needs by requiring every resident be treated fairly and equally in an emergency situation. It is in the best interest of ALL Oregonians that we have fair housing standards that don't discriminate against working people because of documentation. In times of crisis, we should pull together because we are all humans and need a roof over our heads.

Please read HB 3462 and see the good it will do for our communities and all of the people in Oregon. Then support HB3462

Thank you,
Beverly DeLeonardis
Unite Oregon Action