

17 March 2021

To: House Committee on Housing

Re: House Bill 2736

Dear Chair Representative Fahey, Vice-Chairs Representatives Campos and Morgan, and members of the Committee:

I am opposed to HB 2736.

Is there any room left on the bandwagon for yet more legislation favoring people who rent their homes rather than those that purchase their homes?

House Bill 2736 is apparently based on the notion that Oregonians are behind the times. Do the sponsors of this bill believe that anyone over the age of six years does not already know that discrimination is wrong, that there are numerous laws already in place to protect individuals from such? Have the sponsors of HB 2736 not heard of the Federal Fair Housing Act (1968)?

They must also believe that (currently) dubious class of citizenry, those abhorred rental property owners, are comprised mostly of near-do-wells who, with complete disregard or ignorance of the norms and mores of civilization—as well as laws already on the books, are seeking only to shut citizens out of homes. And for no good reason!

Apparently, the sponsors of HB 2736 are oblivious to the fact that tenants are being overwhelmingly favored by legislators. And what is favoring except a different variety of discrimination? Yet, with some convoluted logic that is not considered discrimination.

This session there are five House bills covering various aspects of Oregon's tenant's relationship with rental property owners. There are also two Senate bills covering same. Of those seven bills, only one deals with (the possibility of) assisting rental property owners. A bit lop-sided. Discriminatory?

Just how did rental property owners become the bad guys in this story? Aside from some anecdotal evidence, it is hard to show, let alone prove, a *systematic*, (the term currently in vogue these days) mistreatment of tenants. Yet when tenants mistreat the property owners, the state sides with the tenants! What else can non-payment of legally due rent be called than mistreatment? Are rental property owners being discriminated against solely because they own property?

HB 2736 would put a mom & pop rental property owners, such as myself, under the thumb of Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industry? Just what we need, more bureaucracy. Is BOLI's plate not full enough yet? Am I smelling budget increases in the wings.

Table HB 2736 and use the Committee's time for meaningful legislation.

Sincerely,


Richard Wisner