

Submitter: David Groff
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure: SB2

Dear Honorable Chair Senator Jama, Vice Co-chair Senator Anderson and Members of the Housing and Development Committee

We are writing as part of the advocacy team of the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty. The Interfaith Alliance is a network of thirteen Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant congregations in Portland committed to addressing the root causes of poverty in our community. We are members of the Oregon Housing Alliance and have been working in support of vulnerable members of our communities in the areas of housing, gentrification, wealth distribution, etc. Our congregations are home to landlords, renters, wealthy families, low-income families and people of all demographic groups. We understand the difficult task you face in striving to create an equitable, sustainable and cost-efficient set of state programs/practices that work for all Oregonians.

We support SB2/HB3032 because we see it as a much-needed part of a solution to our affordable housing crisis. By incentivizing home sharing particularly among middle and lower income homeowners, we believe this measure will have many beneficial effects. For older homeowners on fixed incomes, it will provide additional income that will help them retain ownership of their houses. For renters who cannot afford our high market rate rents, it will provide a lower cost alternative.

In our diverse congregations we have people in both these categories who would stand to benefit from the passage of SB2/HB3032. By providing the modest tax break on incomes derived from home sharing, SB2/HB3032 will make opening their homes more attractive and financially feasible for our home-owning congregants of modest means who will then be able to provide rooms to low-income renters. For these reasons, we urge passage of this measure.

Sincerely,

Tom Hering Erik Anderson
Co-chairs of the Advocacy Action Team
David Groff
Member of the Advocacy Action Team