

Submitter: Robert Stoll

On Behalf Of: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB2

Dear Chairs Meek and Boquist,

I was the founder, and am now Chair Emeritus, of HereTogether. As you probably know, HereTogether represents a very diverse coalition of over 150 organizations in the Portland Metro area committed to eliminating homelessness. The coalition includes the Portland Business Alliance, Businesses for A Better Portland, Meyer Memorial Trust and Oregon Community Foundation, Coalition of Communities of Color, and numerous advocates and service providers. We wrote and obtained overwhelming voter approval of the Metro Supportive Housing Services measure in 2020, and are now advocating for its full and effective implementation. One of the most effective we as society can do to prevent homeless is to prevent people from falling into homelessness in the first place, because they cannot afford to have their own home or apartment.

The HT Coalition's "Roadmap for 2023" calls for short as well as long term solutions to ending homeless. Recognized explicitly in the 2023 Roadmap for both short and long terms solutions and prevention of homelessness, and probably THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE AND QUICKEST preventative solutions is home sharing. It requires no lengthy permitting, construction or complicated financing of new or restorative construction of new units, as there are literally hundreds of thousands of vacant bedrooms in Oregon. SB 2 provides modest cost to government, but provides immediate incentives to homeowners to assist in providing much-needed housing for those who cannot afford to have their own apartment. I urge you and the other committee members to support SB2.

Respectfully,

Robert Stoll