



February 17, 2025

Representative Pam Marsh
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, H-474
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 2967

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Andersen and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Housing Alliance calls on you to support HB 2967. This bill removes the burden of application and screening fees from renter households – who are commonly forced to apply for multiple rental units simultaneously, and pay an application fee for each, in an extraordinarily tight rental market.

A system in which tenant screening is a cost of doing business for landlords – rather than being outsourced to prospective tenants – is already in place in other states. HB 2967 removes unnecessary expense and complexity for both tenants and landlords. Rather than collecting fees from every applicant – and then tracking and returning those fees to applicants who were never screened because they were farther down the list of applications (a process that is rife with mistakes and unreturned fees) – landlords would only need to pay to screen the first qualified applicant. This is the norm in almost every other industry; consumers are generally not charged by businesses for the privilege of applying to become their customers. Landlords have a legitimate right to screen applicants, and if they chose to exercise that right they should cover that cost.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of over 100 member organizations, including tenant organizations; affordable housing developers and operators; social service providers and shelter operators; Community Action Agencies; Public Housing Authorities; housing industry businesses and professionals; city and county governments; and community-based nonprofits and advocacy groups.

Our diverse membership is united by the belief that every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe. To this end, we urge your support of House Bill 2967.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cameron Herrington".

Cameron Herrington
Oregon Housing Alliance
cherrington@neighborhoodpartnerships.org

A statewide coalition of housing providers, tenant organizations, homeless service agencies, local governments, and housing advocates. We believe every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe.
oregonhousingalliance.org