

Submitter: Skip Trantow
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3644

Dear Committee Members:

I write in support of HB3031 of requiring OHCS to study housing. We direly need to understand why our housing economy is seemingly in chronic crisis. One culprit seems to be society's dysfunctional relationship with land and buildings. Real estate has evolved away from being homes and the foundation of community toward becoming financial instruments, stores of wealth. Those involved in the housing economy, e.g., builders, owners, investors, realtors, and lenders all expect property values to inflate. Society at large has become addicted to inflating property! The predictable result is that the cost of housing is always a step ahead and outpaces the incomes of increasingly more and more people. There seems to be no incentive for the market to correct this on their own.

It is my hope that OHCS will approach their study with as comprehensive purview as possible. Yes, we need to innovate with new construction modalities, like tall timber and modular. Yes, we need to make the permitting process easier, faster and less expensive. But this is just nibbling at the edges. Be bold and deep, innovate and fix in every aspect of the housing economy. Let's not think that the current housing economy is an intractable given.