

Submitter:

John Roberts

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3644

Oregon taxpayers, we must oppose HB 3644, a \$217,918,652 statewide shelter program that threatens to devastate our economy with uncertain outcomes, inadequate oversight, and inefficient resource use. This massive expenditure, drawn from the General Fund, risks wasting your hard-earned money if it fails to reduce unsheltered homelessness—like New York’s \$4 billion shelter system, which saw mismanagement and no real progress. The bill’s lack of strict accountability—allowing flexibility for regional coordinators and shelter providers without real-time oversight—could lead to fraud and waste, mirroring California’s troubled shelters. By prioritizing temporary shelters over permanent housing, it risks creating dependency, draining resources without solving root causes, as seen in San Diego’s costly, ineffective programs. Diverting \$217 million could cut funding for critical areas like business growth and infrastructure, burdening taxpayers and small businesses, just as Portland’s \$1 billion homeless spending yielded little return. Don’t let HB 3644 saddle Oregon with unsustainable debt and economic instability—vote against it to protect our financial future.