

Dear Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing:

My wife and I were born and raised in NE Portland, but 7 years ago we relocated to Sauvie Island with our 3 young children. We have 2.1 acres on the island and we love our island home. For the past 6 years I have been a member of the Sauvie Island Fire Department and recent became an officer for the department. **I am writing in support of House Bill 2937.**

When my mother in law was battling cancer 2 years ago we converted an existing outbuilding into a small residence for her. It was a gift for us all to have her here on our land for her last months of life. After spending a few months clearing her space we decided to put her home on Air B n B. The response was immediate and hugely positive. We had families from all over the United States come and visit the island drawn by the rural beauty and a chance to visit Portland while going to bed listening to the birds and the frogs.

Our guests were respectful of our privacy, but enthusiastic about Portland and the specialness Sauvie Island. The income we received from the overnight rental was a benefit to our family as well. Truly a win win. Our guest visited our neighbors farm stands, shopped at the island grocery and attended island concerts all while respectfully enjoying the rural character of the island.

I see HB 2937 as a great way for folks her on the island and beyond to diversify their income from their farms and residences. Sauvie Island has the lowest population density in all of Multnomah County so any talk of the island or our fire department somehow being overrun by its approval is so much hot air.

There is also a shift happening right now on the island. In addition to having the lowest population density the island has the highest average age in Multnomah County. Young families such as mine are not advocating getting rid of the rural character of the island. However, we do want to be able to participate in the shared economy by welcoming visitors to our island who love and appreciate what we are fortunate enough to wake up to every morning.

Thank you for the important work that you do.

Best,

Aaron Cross