

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and members of the committee,

I am writing today in support of HB 3357, the increase in the document recording fee, as a homeowner who recently purchased a condominium home in Portland. In my day job, I work for Oregon Opportunity Network, but I wanted to share my personal perspective on this bill.

Today I heard testimony of the Oregon Association of Realtors on HB 3357, to the effect that increasing the document recording fee is an attempt to solve the housing crisis on the backs of homeowners. This straw man argument seems to come up for just about every bill that seeks to provide a tool - one part of the solution - to help solve our complex, multifaceted, and deepening statewide housing crisis.

The notion that a \$20 increase in the document recording fee is an unfair burden on homeowners, is laughable. In our recent homebuying transaction, this fee was barely a blip on the last page of the pile of paperwork. If I were not professionally aware of its existence, I would never have even noticed this tiny fee. As someone lucky enough to be able to buy a home in Portland, I was happy to pay it and would be delighted to have paid \$40, knowing how desperately we need funding to prevent homelessness, build and preserve affordable housing, and support affordable homeownership.

We all as Oregonians need to contribute in different ways to support our neighbors who do not have a place to call home. Please support HB 3357 and this modest increase to a crucial, effective, dedicated source of funding for affordable housing.

Thank you very much,

Ruth Adkins