



*Testimony on HB 4007
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
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Oregon Food Bank supports a significant increase to the document recording fee

Oregon Food Bank holds people experiencing hunger at the center of all we do. The issues and concerns facing the people we serve guide our programmatic decisions and direct our public policy efforts.

More and more, we hear from our clients about the strong connection between housing and hunger. Our clients tell us about making the tough choice between paying for rent or for food and the struggle to find an affordable place to live. They tell us that the reason they visit food pantries and emergency meal sites is because of housing issues. Nearly a third of clients surveyed statewide said that affordable housing would make emergency food assistance less necessary for themselves and their families. Housing issues are driving many of our neighbors to experience hunger.

In order to end hunger, we need to address housing.

The document recording fee is dedicated revenue that helps prevent and end homelessness, build and preserve affordable homes, and helps Oregonians access homeownership. These dedicated resources create housing opportunity in our communities. They help our friends and neighbors get through tough times and not have to make the tough choice between rent and food.

Increased funding for the document recording fee would have helped Oregonians like Vicki from Salem have a safe place to call home. She told us, "I lost my retail job last year and we ended up homeless when I was five months pregnant, sleeping in a tent in Wallace Park. The first night I was just praying I didn't freeze to death. I was so cold the next morning I couldn't feel my toes. We didn't have bus fare, so I had to walk out of the woods to get to the hospital one time. It was a good mile and a half back; it took me almost two hours."

The Legislature has the ability to make an immediate impact on the lives of Oregonians struggling to pay their rent, find an affordable place to call home, and access homeownership through increasing the document recording fee. Oregon Food Bank urges the Legislature to support an increase in the document recording fee and help ensure more of our neighbors and community members have a safe, stable place to call home.

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