

To: Chair Rep. Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Rep. Noble and Rep. Sanchez and members of the Committee

From: Anne Nesse, Director <http://SustainableEconomiesNW.com>

I am submitting testimony in favor of HB 3349 along with a video interview to help us understand how importantly the funds from this Law could be used to end homelessness in Oregon, as a first priority. In Oregon we currently have the 2nd highest homelessness rate in the nation and rising. 13,953 people were counted as homeless in 2017, 3% sheltered, and 8% unsheltered.

Here: NPR interviews the organization responsible for eliminating homelessness in New Orleans (by 90%): **Martha Kegel**, executive director of [Unity of Greater New Orleans](https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2019/02/19/new-orleans-reducing-homeless-hurricane-katrina), <https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2019/02/19/new-orleans-reducing-homeless-hurricane-katrina> She calls it a very cost effective program.

If we fail to solve this problem, one might consider our state to be inhumane? We are setting a bad example for our state. Homeless families living in tents, and cardboard boxes, effects our entire economy. It is our societies sustainable responsibility to care for our most vulnerable population. And this should be our first priority. When it comes to using the funds collected in HB 3349, those in the higher income brackets, who can afford 2nd homes, should willingly contribute. And we must also make sure that the funds generated from this Law will go to workable, and documented solutions to the problem.

Thank you,  
Anne Nesse