

To: House Human Resources and Housing Committee
From: St Johns Housing Committee
Date: March 18, 2109
Re: HB 3349

We are part of the St Johns Housing Committee and hope to see HB 3349 become law this session. The idea that the top 5% of earners should reap the greatest rewards from a government housing program, while there are people with no home at all receiving no benefits makes no sense. \$160 million dollars redirected to programs to help the houseless, the rent burdened and those seeking to acquire their first home, on the other hand, makes perfect sense.

The community of St Johns, in the most northern part of Portland is undergoing gentrification and its imperative that we find ways to minimize this impact. Our committee's goals are to keep and develop affordable housing options in St Johns. Locally, we are working with a church seeking to use some of its property to build affordable housing, and we are also exploring the development of a transitional village on another church property in St Johns.

Along with our local efforts we want to support regional and statewide initiatives with similar housing goals.

We strongly support HB 3349. Please pass this bill out of this committee, with a "Do Pass" recommendation to the full House.

Thank you.

St Johns Housing Committee, a committee of the St Johns Center for Opportunity
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