

Housing and Development Committee,

As someone who has worked on the issues of rental housing for many years, I can say that it is very important for tenants, government and the general public to know who is the owner of a rental property. I think the best way to have ownership and contact information is through a registry. I support SB 838 if it gives the public this information. Because we do not have a registry of rental properties many issues important to rental housing arise. For example, we do not know with certainty how many rental units exist in Oregon. This makes planning for growth difficult. In this public health crisis it makes it more difficult to know what services, where, and at what cost, are needed. Many tenants trying to exercise their landlord tenant rights can have their rights frustrated because the information about who is the owner and how to contact them is hidden. This can be for issues of payment, payment address, complaints about harassments, Fair Housing or needed repairs. Many states and municipalities have registries. Oregon needs this level of regulation to be more planful about meeting the housing needs of Oregonians. A lot of housing is owned by individuals, so I hope this will apply to small landlords, sole proprietorship and other legal entities.

Sincerely,

Kim McCarty
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