

22 February 2021

To: House Committee on Housing

Re: House Bill 2372

Dear Chair Representative Fahey, Vice-Chairs Representatives Campos & Morgan, and members of the Committee:

I am opposed to HB 2372 and urge the committee to table it.

Is the committee familiar with Oregon's no fault divorce? (ORS 107 et. Seq.) Currently, a spouse or partner who is asking for divorce does not have to prove the other spouse or partner did something wrong. In fact, a spouse or partner does not even need permission or participation of the other spouse or partner to proceed with a divorce.

There is no difference between Oregon's logic on no fault divorce and the logic of no fault evictions currently standing under ORS 90.427. Rental property owners do not need to explain why they want their own personal property back any more than someone seeking divorce needs to explain why.

I am not equating divorce and eviction, even though a plausible corollary could be made in terms of the possible disruption ensuing, for example, in family life. The logic however is identical.

We already have equitable laws covering this subject that serve us well. HB 2372 considers only the possible plight of tenants while discounting entirely the plight of rental property owners.

Where does HB 2372 clarify damages available to landlords? Or is that relegated to the same dustbin as moratorium on eviction for non-payment of rents (breach of contract) is hiding? This bill only promotes and condones further encroachment on the rights of tax payers to their privately owned property and does not deserve further consideration. This bill should die in committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Wisner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Wisner