

March 13, 2023

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Dear Chair Representative Dexter, Vice-Chairs Representatives Gamba and Helfrich, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about the great state of Oregon. I am writing to you with my concerns with HB 3237.

As we all know, Oregon is having a housing crisis. We all want to create a more stable housing environment for all Oregonians. To accomplish this, we all need to encourage investors to invest in the housing industry in Oregon. Every time we pass legislation that places more responsibilities on housing providers, it discourages investors and escalates the housing shortage we are all living with.

The cost to process an application varies a lot, depending on the company used and the rental history of the applicant. There are additional costs for background checks for every state the applicant has lived in. We are allowed set an application fee to cover the average cost to process an application. We do not know what the actual cost of the background check will be until after it is processed. This is not in our control. We calculate the average cost and use that cost as an application fee.

Housing providers are already required to return application fees for unprocessed applications. Asking us to provide a receipt, that will not match the application fee, and adding more penalties that give the applicants more reason to complain is not helpful.

Let's work together to improve the Oregon housing crisis. Let's encourage new investors to invest in Oregon. Oregon is very, very, very pro-tenant. Please do not make housing any less investor friendly.

I am in Favor of Oregon so I am opposed to HB 3237.

Thank you for listening.

Richard Satter