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On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure: SB2

My name is Aimee Sukol. I am an Oregonian and have been a Portland resident for 20 years. As we all know, homelessness and housing instability have become leading problems throughout Oregon for years. Oregon has been #1 in homeless youth nationwide for several years while seniors increasingly fear losing their housing due to unrelenting financial constraints. SB2 will incentivize homeowners to rent spare rooms thereby relieving some burden on mortgaged burdened homeowners while increasing vital housing supply.

In my own experience, I struggled to find a studio or 1bd under \$1200 + WSG and fees that amount to \$1400+ per month. I sought rooms in Portland to no avail as most advertisements were very limited reflecting a small fraction of housing options. When my financial situation improved and I did find an apartment, my landlord raised pet rent by 130%, which increased my housing costs while bypassing rent restrictions. In other words, there are few housing options for renters aside from an apartment, shelter or a tent.

SB2 makes it easier for compatible people to share costs and serve as support systems for each other. This bill also paves the way for a community infrastructure where groups help homeowners and renters work together to fill unused housing. My friend is a homeowner and would like to rent a room in her home, but has experienced issues with roommates. By providing some tax relief, my friend is incentivized to seek services that will help her with the process of identifying a stable roommate with whom she can share her home and costs. Little incentives matter.

In short, SB2 is a step in the right direction in addressing our housing crisis. I don't think any one strategy will change our situation overnight, but through innovative ideas we can make strides in reducing housing instability. SB2 doesn't eliminate state revenue as most homeowners haven't tried to rent spare rooms for less than \$1000/month anyway. Incentivizing them to do so only offers increased financial opportunities for homeowners and rental options for renters. A win-win for Oregon!