



Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

**Testimony in support of SB 2**

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AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With over 500,000 members in Oregon, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families, with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment.

AARP supports SB 2. An important aspect of our work in Oregon is advocating for livable and age-friendly communities, including expanding housing options and ensuring affordable, safe, secure, and accessible homes for Oregonians of all ages and abilities.

**By 2030, we will face a severe shortage of accessible and affordable housing to meet the needs of 1 in 5 Americans who will be over age 65 in our country.** Oregon's housing crisis calls for a multitude of solutions to address the challenges faced by Oregonians of all ages in finding affordable homes in their community. An increasing number of older Oregonians are at risk of or are experiencing houselessness. While we recognize the long-term need to build housing supply, we need to find ways *today* to address the crisis many of our neighbors are experiencing. SB 2 provides a solution today to better use existing stock of underutilized housing.

**AARP research shows older adults want to remain in community.** AARP research shows nearly 80% of adults 50+ want to remain in their own community and home if possible. To honor that vision, we need to provide multitude of opportunities for them to do so.

We need to promote affordable access and options for older Oregonians who cannot afford to stay in their home or need to downsize to a smaller home. For older homeowners who are mortgage burdened or who need help with activities of daily living (e.g. cooking, groceries shopping or cleaning), home-sharing provides one way to live independently.

We are pleased with the inclusion of a sunset. It will allow us to evaluate if the bill is having the intended effect and consider if it would be necessary to increase the number of months beyond the current 3 months in the bill.

SB 2 offers a real solution that targets an innovative solution at a time when we need it most. **On behalf of over half million AARP members ages 50+ statewide, we urge the committee to pass SB 2.**