

Submitter: Rich Rohde
On Behalf Of: Southern Oregon Housing for All
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure: SB976

To: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Fr: Rich Rohde 124 Ohio St Ashland Oregon 97520

I strongly urge your support for SB 976, a much overdue bill to reform the way our state subsidizes housing. The mortgage interest tax deduction should be directed to where it is needed the most: helping low income homebuyers purchase their first home. Subsidizing homeowners who have second homes makes our subsidies less useful in accomplishing our shared goal of broad homeownership. In southern Oregon we have experienced the loss of so many homes by wildfire, and the cost of purchasing for first time home buyers has escalated. This bill will help put our incentives to the best and highest use.

I have been involved in advocating for affordable housing and just housing policies for over 40 years in Oregon. The issue of reforming the mortgage interest tax deduction has long been blocked by special interests to our lasting detriment. NOW is the time to redress this issue to make our state supportive of complete communities with broad homeownership and just use of our tax policies.