

Submitter: David Groff

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SB976

Chairman Meek, Vice Chairman Sen. Boquist and members of the committee

My name is David Groff. I am a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland and the Oregon Coalition of Christian Voices. My faith tells me that everyone deserves a decent place to live. I think we can all agree that home ownership should be encouraged. The mortgage interest deduction (MID) was designed for that purpose. However, in a time when our state is gripped by a severe housing crisis, is it wise to maintain the MID for second homes or other non-principal residences? I think not and encourage you to pass SB976 as a means of eliminating a non-essential and inequitable tax break thereby providing funds with which we can address our housing crisis and assist some of our fellow citizens to become homeowners.

As you know, the bill does the following:

- It eliminates the MID for non-principal residences.
- It phases out the MID for high income households.
- It dedicates all saved revenue for the establishment of the Oregon Housing Opportunity Account to promote home ownership among low-income families and to address our state's ongoing homelessness crisis.

What this bill asks us to do is to make what amounts to a modest sacrifice in the interest of mobilizing our resources to deal with the crisis. I urge you to pass SB976.

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