



Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and members of the committee,

Sightline Institute is an independent, nonpartisan think tank working to make the Pacific Northwest a global model of sustainability. I work on our housing program, looking for ways we can affordably and efficiently house every Oregonian.

I'm writing in support of HB 2958 from a housing perspective, and also from a general perspective on how we can improve the life of every Oregonian. Sightline supports the renewal and expansion of the state's Earned Income Tax Credit because the simplest, most efficient, and most effective way to improve many Oregonian's lives is with a little cash.

Every Oregonian needs water, food, a home, and basic health care. Most Oregonians also benefit at some point from homeownership, transportation, child care, higher education, and a host of other services. The great thing about cash is that because Oregonians generally know which of those things they need most at which times, cash benefits like the EITC are likely our single most cost-efficient housing subsidy program **and** our single most cost-efficient food security program **and** our single most-efficient utility support program, etc.

The EITC's particular focus on households with children is also particularly appropriate in the housing context, because the need for additional housing space is the single largest cost of parenting, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Michael Andersen
director, cities + towns