

2/25/2019

Chair Williamson and Members of House Judiciary Committee

Re: HB2285

Before retirement, I spent 30 years working to increase the supply of affordable housing, as a Legal Aid lawyer, government policy guy, and a nonprofit housing lender to community development corporations (CDCs).

One of the chronic problems we faced was the prevalence of abandoned homes. We thought we had a solution by establishing the receivership program but it only led to CDCs doing the needed work on the properties (and being paid for it), but there was no path created to provide long-term preservation of the home as affordable.

HB 2285 would seem to move us forward by granting local government the power to donate these properties directly to nonprofits or Housing Authorities when owners fail to respond to liens assessed for needed repairs.

Please pass out HB 2285. It represents a small but valuable step in improving the quality of neighborhoods by removing nuisances, while also increasing the supply of affordable homes for Oregon families.

Thank you for taking up this Bill.

Ramsay Weit

3617 SW Texas Street

Portland, Oregon 97219

503-936-3306