

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

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Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Marsh & Findley, and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is neutral on SB 1045A, but our organization is grateful for the opportunity to highlight home-sharing as a cost-effective way to create affordable housing, financially stabilize homeowners and home-seekers, and to build community.

EMO's Metro HomeShare and Second Home programs offer home-sharing solutions to Oregonians who need stable housing.

Metro HomeShare, launched under a different name more than twenty years ago, enables homeowners to turn an extra room into a source of financial stability. Seniors on a fixed income facing an increase in property taxes, a recent widower who can't maintain the home on his own, or recent empty-nesters who want to give back to the community by sharing their homes are examples of Metro HomeShare clients who we have successfully matched with those in search of affordable shelter, benefitting both parties.

Second Home is a ground-breaking community response to youth homelessness that for roughly ten years has helped high school students secure stable housing and a life-changing education. In Beaverton, Lincoln County and Gresham-Barlow school districts, as well as districts in broader Washington and Clackamas counties, Second Home partners with district homeless liaisons, an independent dispute resolution entity and volunteer home-providers to find stable housing for homeless high school students who have become separated from their parents and who are determined to graduate. Home-providers offer room and board to the student while they attend high school. All home-share arrangements are governed by rental agreements and house rules that the families and students negotiate together with the help of the Second Home staff and a volunteer mediator from the Dispute Resolution Center. Regular and ongoing support for the participants comes from both the Second Home staff and from community partners, leading to the average Second Home home-sharing arrangement lasting more than twelve months.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these programs in more detail, and to offer hard-won insights into how home-sharing programs can be part of a comprehensive approach to address Oregon's housing crisis.

Sincerely,

Ethan Livermore
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Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon