



Sightline Institute is an independent think tank working to advance sustainability in the Pacific Northwest. We believe it exists at the intersection of environmental health and social justice.

We're writing in **support of HB 2583**, removing arbitrary limits on household size per unit.

This common-sense, bipartisan reform would help address Oregon's statewide housing shortage and make our state more energy-efficient at no cost to the state budget.

On a given night, [nearly 1.5 million of Oregon's bedrooms sit empty](#). Occupancy limits aren't the main reason for most of these vacancies, but they are one factor preventing people from renting out unused space. If these arbitrary housemate limits are keeping as many as 1 percent of those empty bedrooms unoccupied, HB 2583 would create economical places to live for at least 15,000 more Oregonians, at zero expense to governments. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, that happens to be [the approximate number of Oregonians without homes as of January 2019](#).

Housemate caps commit the simplest sin there is against both environmental sustainability and housing affordability—making it harder to voluntarily share our space and our stuff with each other.

Oregon would not be alone in taking state level action on this issue. Just last week, the Washington legislature [passed an equivalent bill](#), SB 5235, also with bipartisan support. In 2017, Iowa [passed a similar bipartisan bill](#) banning unrelated occupancy limits. Meanwhile, state courts in [California, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York](#) have struck down unrelated occupancy limits.

We urge the committee to take the state level action Oregonians need and pass House Bill 2583.

Michael Andersen
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