

Testimony

May 13, 2021

Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Re: In support of SB 852

Donna L Cohen, Portland, Oregon. Civics for Adults.

Senator Burdick and Committee Members:

I'm a person of nuance. I like to examine issues thoroughly and sort out the complexities.

But this is simple.

Do we take back some money we've been giving to people who are financially comfortable and well-housed and use it to help those who are unhoused or housing burdened or able to buy a first home with just a bit of help?

If your answer isn't a strong "yes!" then maybe should examine why you're here, because we expect elected officials to support those who need help, not those who don't.

I bought my first home 17 years ago with the help of a first-time homeowner program. It radically changed my life.

Because of my home, I have financial stability and I am physically healthier as doing all the things around the house and yard required me to get into better physical condition. I have contributed a great deal to my community, and, indeed, would not be able to be here advocating for this bill were I struggling to earn the money a rental would cost me.

The investment the government made to allow me to buy a home has been returned manyfold in time and skills I have provided to my community.

Please do the right thing. Move this bill ahead with a "do pass" recommendation for the many others who need help with housing.