

Honorable members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I strongly support this bill, SB 852. It is a reasonable approach to both revenue generation and a more equitable housing system in our state. I am a renter in Portland, though a relatively wealthy renter. I've chosen not to buy a home not because I'm not dedicated to living in Portland--I've stayed here my entire life of 35 years and am engaged in our local community--but because renting has always presented good housing options for me. I live with my partner in the one home she owns, and am setting down roots in North Portland (literally and figuratively, as she lets me manage the garden).

As a relatively wealthy individual with no home equity and no home mortgage, I gladly pay my Oregon income taxes using the standard deduction, and do not find Oregon income taxes to be onerous. Honestly they're too low for high-income folk but that's another discussion. Someone who owns multiple homes can surely afford to pay their fair share. We shouldn't be subsidizing their taxes at the expense of other tax payers and beneficiaries of government programs. We certainly shouldn't be using our tax code to encourage wealthy folk to buy multiple homes, further exacerbating our housing crisis.

Please support this bill. Best,

Thomas Craig (97203)