



January 23, 2023

Chair Dexter and members of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness,

We are writing today to express our full support for HB 3032, the Home Share for Oregon Act, and urge you to vote in support of the bill.

Tackling homelessness in Oregon requires creative solutions and an all hands on deck approach. Home Share Oregon has identified that across the state, more than 1.5 million owner-occupied homes have spare bedrooms available. If just 2% of these homeowners were to rent out one of these rooms, it could lead to 30,000 Oregonians finding affordable, stable housing.

The Home Share for Oregon Act is a basic concept: Any homeowner in an owner-occupied home who is willing to rent a spare bedroom long term for \$1,000 per month or less is absolved from the income tax burden on the additional earned income. This incentive would be a win-win for both middle to low income homeowners as well as low income renters, providing opportunities for vulnerable homeowners to stay in their homes and renters to access safe, stable places to live.

HereTogether's 250+ member coalition, which includes Home Share, knows that addressing our state's homeless crisis requires implementing innovative solutions. Oregon should enthusiastically adopt this opportunity to increase the supply of housing, ensure abundant options for low-income renters and support homeowners.

If fully leveraged, The Home Share for Oregon Act targets an immediately available resource that could make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable Oregonians across the state. This simple legislative incentive will motivate homeowners with spare rooms to open up their homes to well-matched roommates, creating new opportunities on the rental market.

We hope you will swiftly pass HB 3032, the Home Share for Oregon Act.

Cole Merkel
Co-Director, HereTogether
cole@heretogetheroregon.org

HereTogether—a 250+ member coalition comprising service providers, business leaders, faith leaders, advocates and more—strives to create a Portland metro region where homelessness is rare and brief by advocating for near term and permanent solutions, systems change and accountability necessary to effectively scale up resources and serve our most vulnerable neighbors.