

TO: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
FROM: Sammi Teo, Public Policy Advocate
RE: Support for HB 3042 to address shortage of affordable housing
DATE: February 2, 2023



Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and members of the committee,

Oregon Food Bank's mission is to eliminate hunger and its root causes. We pursue this goal in two key ways: we foster community connections to help people access nutritious food today; and we advocate to change policies that drive hunger and poverty. We have the opportunity to rebuild and emerge stronger so that we can end hunger for good in our communities. This is our moment to embrace our shared values and take bold action in support of *all* Oregonians.

Food security and stable housing go hand-in-hand.

At Oregon Food Bank, we know that the best solutions come from those of us who have experienced hunger and poverty first-hand. Over the course of many years working in communities that disproportionately face food insecurity, we have heard loud and clear that the lack of affordable housing in Oregon is a primary reason why more than one in eight kids in Oregon lives in a household that struggles to afford food.

Everyone deserves a safe place to call home. The well-being of our communities depends on whether this basic need is met. According to the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis, [more than 50% of Oregon renters do not have enough money left over](#) after rent to pay for food, medicine, and other basic necessities. A recent report from Oregon State University found that Oregonians who are [renters are six times more likely to experience hunger than Oregonians who are homeowners](#). Too many Oregonians are forced to choose between feeding their families or losing everything to eviction. It's time to do better.

We need to preserve the affordable units that we have, and ensure residents know about changes in their housing situation.

Over the next 10 years, use restrictions on **over 7,500 units of affordable housing will end** and many properties will become unrestricted, market rate rental housing. This loss will destabilize our communities and impact our most vulnerable low-income Oregonians.

HB 3042 would ensure tenants and prospective tenants know about expiring affordability protections, improve Oregon's chances of preserving more affordable housing, and provide modest protections for residents living in properties that do convert to market. We urge you to support HB 3042 as we strive to build our way out of the shortage of affordable housing. Thank you.

Oregon Food Bank
Headquarters /
Metro Services
7900 NE 33rd Drive
Portland, OR 97211
503-282-0555

Oregon Food Bank
Washington County
Services
1870 NW 173rd Ave
Beaverton, OR 97006
503-439-6510

Oregon Food Bank
Tillamook County
Services
PO Box 1344
Tillamook, OR 97141
503-842-3154

Oregon Food Bank
Southeast Oregon
Services
773 S Oregon Street
Ontario, OR 97914
541-889-9206

Columbia Gorge
Food Bank
3610 Crates Way
The Dalles, OR 97058
541-370-2333

