

Submitter: Omar Ahmed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB2984

I would like to give testimony enthusiastically supporting easier conversion of office space to housing.

From census data, Portland has a much lower residential vacancy rate in comparison to comparable cities: <https://www.wweek.com/news/2022/12/21/to-measure-how-portland-is-doing-lets-compare-ourselves-to-other-cities/>. For example, Portland is at 1.8%, compared to 5.2% for Austin, 5.5% for Seattle, and 6.8% for Denver. In contrast, we are at 20.8% office vacancy, higher than any peer city.