



February 12, 2025

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2698

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Breese-Iverson, and Members
of the Committee:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) urges your support of HB 2698,
which establishes a statewide goal for homeownership.

The housing crisis in Oregon and across the country was 50 years in
the making and will take many strategies over decades to overcome
the deficit. Especially hard hit are low-income families for whom home
ownership is often out of reach and can be their only source of security
and wealth.

EMO strives to serve the many communities in need of housing, food,
immigration services, and much more. Affordable home ownership will
only occur with intentionality and a much more robust array of homes
being built here in Oregon.

Having a defined statewide goal and tracking the availability of homes
for diverse communities is a good first step in making sure housing
needs get the attention they deserve over the years to come.

We encourage you to pass HB 2698.

Sincerely,

Patti Whitney-Wise, Consultant, EMO, pwhitney-wise@emoregon.org