



A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

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

FR: Tan Perkins, OR AFL-CIO

RE: Testimony in Opposition of HB 2976

February 17th, 2025

Chair Marsh, Vice-Chairs Anderson and Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee. For the record my name is Tan Perkins with the Oregon AFL-CIO, the statewide federation of labor unions representing over 300,000 working people in Oregon and a voice for all workers in the legislative process.

I urge your support of HB 2976, which would remove the costly and inequitable application fee for rental applications.

We know that workers are faced with wages that don't keep up with inflation, and cuts to benefits. In addition, when trying to find a place to live, the market is scarce and expensive. Many people apply to a handful of apartment buildings all with application fees in the hopes of just getting in. Allowing renters to apply for more housing will ensure that folks are actually able to find suitable housing that is within their budget, without having to accept something that doesn't truly work because it is the only thing available.

HB 2976 would allow for good tenants to find good housing that they stay in for longer periods of time. Reducing barriers to housing in any way we can is a priority for the wellbeing of all workers.

I strongly urge your support of HB 2976.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and your service to Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Tan Perkins, Oregon AFL-CIO