



June 2, 2025

Representative Ben Bowman
House Majority Leader
Chair, House Committee on Rules
900 Court St NE, H-295
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 3974

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazen and Pham, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Housing Alliance calls on you to support HB 3974. This bill caps the burden of application and screening fees from renter households – who are commonly forced to apply for multiple rental units simultaneously, in an extraordinarily tight rental market.

A system in which tenant screening is a cost of doing business for landlords, rather than being outsourced to prospective tenants, is already in place in other states. HB 3974 caps this expense and complexity for both tenants and landlords. In any other industry, consumers are generally not charged by businesses for the privilege of applying to become their customers. Landlords have a legitimate right to screen applicants, and if they chose to exercise that fee should be reasonable.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of over 100 member organizations, including tenant organizations; affordable housing developers and operators; social service providers and shelter operators; Community Action Agencies; Public Housing Authorities; housing industry businesses and professionals; city and county governments; and community-based nonprofits and advocacy groups.

Our diverse membership is united by the belief that every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe. To this end, we urge your support of House Bill 2967.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebekah Markillie".

Rebekah Markillie
Oregon Housing Alliance
rmarkillie@neighborhoodpartnerships.org