

Submitter:

Terrell Dunnigan

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

HB3974

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

As a chef who's lived in Central Oregon for over 20 years, I've watched my hometown become unrecognizable. Friends are trying to rent in the same apartment complex where I got my start, but now it's more than twice the price. I've seen people I grew up with forced to leave because they can't afford to live here anymore—losing \$50 over and over on application fees, only to be denied for having a record or poor credit. It's heartbreaking to watch good people be pushed out of the place they call home.

I urge you to pass HB 3974, capping application fees at \$20. These fees place a significant burden on low-income renters, making it harder to secure stable housing, particularly for marginalized communities. As a result, many families remain in unstable living conditions. With this cap, landlords can still check all essential criteria—credit, background, and rental history—without overcharging applicants. Passing this bill would not only reduce barriers to housing but also increase community safety by providing more people access to stable housing.

Thank you.