

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazan, Vice-Chair Pham and Members of the Committee,

My name is Edward Buck-Shannon and I am a Policy Associate at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. EMO is an interfaith association with more than 750 members across the state. Through our seven direct service programs we support vulnerable Oregonians with legal services, host home housing, food aid and other services. I urge your support of HB 3974 which will cap rental application screening fees at \$20.

Tenants need this policy because the cost of application fees snowballs in a tight rental market, increasing the cost of housing before tenants even secure their future housing. And this is especially true of our most vulnerable renters.

According to research from the National Consumer Law Center, Black, Latine applicants are twice as likely to submit 5 or more applications.

Setting rental fee caps at \$20 is a compromise to ensure fairness and dignity to renters. I urge you to support the \$20 cap on rental application fees by supporting HB 3974.

Sincerely,

Edward Buck-Shannon

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon