

Submitter: Christopher Raymond
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3974

June 2 2025

Representative Pam Marsh
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

To Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Anderson, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson,

I am an Oregon resident and father of three children who are in or have been through college (OSU), and are starting their way into adult life as renters. On several occasions I have been quite shocked at rental application fees they have faced just to apply for affordable housing. I believe in one instance, in Corvallis, the application fee was \$100! I do not understand why an application fee should cost so much – there are many ‘one click’ on-line, low cost services available for this purpose. I can only imagine that lessor’s use this mechanism for profit, or to prohibit lower income individuals from applying, ie, discrimination. This should not be tolerated.

I urge you to pass HB 3974 to prohibit landlords from charging more than \$20 to cover application fees. As noted, these fees create a major financial burden for low-income renters, making it harder to secure stable housing. These fees disproportionately affect marginalized communities and keep families trapped in unstable housing situations. Landlords have little incentive to keep these fees low and should not use this mechanism for profit. Existing regulations make it difficult for tenants to enforce their rights.

Putting a cap of \$20 on these fees will help reduce barriers to housing, giving renters a better chance at stability, without imposing a financial burden on landlords.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christopher Raymond
Bend, OR