

Submitter: Adam Newby

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 renter in Bend working for a local nonprofit, and someone who has relied on federally subsidized housing to keep a roof over my head, I know how difficult and discouraging the application process can be. I couldn't even afford my own application fees without assistance. I don't know many people who have \$50 to spare once—let alone multiple times while trying to secure a place to live. Housing is a basic need, and our system shouldn't make it harder for people to access it. Capping application fees at \$20 is a small but meaningful step toward fairness and accessibility for those who need it most.

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.