



## **SB 1095 - Optional Fees on empty houses**

Senate Finance and Revenue Committee – Jody Wiser – 6.4.2025

My name is Jody Wiser, and I represent Tax Fairness Oregon, an organization concerned that our tax code is rational and equitable.

The changes made to SB 1095 avoid the vacation home issue and instead focus on the issue of homes that sit vacant for years on end that I spoke of at the first hearing for this bill.

It is true that an empty home doesn't necessarily need much in the way of public services. But that doesn't mean they don't have a negative effect on the neighborhood. Some of the ones in John's and my better neighborhoods were visually ugly, likely pushing the value of neighboring homes down and others were well kept, but gave the street an odd empty vibe. Without public transit or services, none invited squatters. But the press has also brought attention to derelict homes in other neighborhoods, where the police are called often and have a terrible effect on neighbors. The bigger issue is, housing should be used, particularly when we have the housing crisis upon us today. If a hefty fee will encourage owners to rent out their empty houses, that would be a very good thing.

I thank this committee for pursuing this idea. But before this bill gets its final vote, I hope Commissioners and Judges are watching and will weigh in on whether they will actually take action to use it.