

House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

February 6, 2018

Chair Keny Guyer, Vice-Chair Olson, Vice-Chair Sanchez, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tatiana Dierwechter and I live in Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon and I support HB 4007, which increases the document recording fee to \$75 to provide additional dedicated, ongoing funding for affordable housing.

Like many communities in Oregon, Benton County is facing a housing crisis. People in our community lack access to safe, healthy, and affordable housing and homelessness is a serious and growing concern. Two-thirds of households below the median income are burdened by the high cost of housing in Benton County. And in 2017, the point-in-time count identified 287 persons experiencing homelessness in Benton County, an increase of 226 percent in two years.

The 2013-18 Benton County Health Improvement plan identified safe, healthy, and affordable housing as a high priority need. Stable housing gives our community members an opportunity to build better and healthier lives, and it is a part of our job to make sure everyone has a safe place to call home. Poor quality and inadequate housing contribute to health problems such as infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, and poor childhood development. People who have difficulty paying rent, mortgage or utility bills are less likely to have an established source of medical care, more likely to postpone treatment, and more likely to use the emergency room for treatment.

Families who lack affordable housing are more likely to move frequently, and residential instability is associated with emotional, behavioral and academic problems among children, and increased risk of teen pregnancy, early drug use, and depression during adolescence. I believe children deserve an opportunity to succeed in school and life.

Thank you for your service to all Oregon communities.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Dierwechter  
Benton County Resident