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Interchurch Center

245 S. Bancroft St., Ste. B

Portland, Oregon 97239

phone (503) 221-1054

fax (503) 223-7007

email emo@emoregon.org

website EMOregon.org

February 23, 2021

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Campos, Vice-Chair Morgan and Members of the Committee,

Working with over 150 congregations, organizations, and interfaith partners, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) strives to envision communities of faith in ministry together creating a more peaceful, just, sustainable, and compassionate world. At EMO we affirm that housing is a basic human right and echo our community's demand for state investment in providing substantial shelter support for all Oregonians.

EMO strongly supports HB 2006 as well as its companion funding bill HB 2004. By removing barriers to identifying locations where shelters can be placed, this bill will help address the current emergency of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. In addition, providing funding will aid in increasing shelter access across the state.

At EMO we strive to ensure there are sufficient shelters for those in need of a safe and warm place to sleep. Our current community housing programs, Second Home and Metro Homeshare, exemplify our commitment to making housing a priority. Our work with people in these programs have instilled how essential it is for immediate and emergent shelters to be available, as well as the importance in investing in long term housing assistance and stability.

This past year, both the pandemic and the wildfires have highlighted the intersectionality of the housing crisis, and reaffirmed the urgency needed to address our insufficient housing policy and state investment. [EMO's faith community](#) is dedicated to supporting those experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity as seen through their rapid response to this summer's wildfires. We know that as the climate crisis continues, more disasters such as these will occur, not only disproportionately affecting those already experiencing homelessness but continuing to threaten all housing stability. Passing HB 2006 is a step in the right direction. The need for both emergency response as well as longer-term support is abundantly clear.

Addressing barriers to create safe and accessible housing for all, and acknowledging the ways in which the climate crisis will continue to amplify the need for housing support is long overdue. We urge you to support HB 2006 and join us in serving and investing in the safety and well-being of our communities. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ella Burke

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon/Oregon Interfaith Power & Light