

Submitter: John Canalin
On Behalf Of: Manufactured home park tenants
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Transportation and Economic Development
Measure: SB5511

March 2, 2023

Co-Chairs Sen. Aaron Woods & Rep. David Gomberg
Joint Ways and Means, Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee

Re: Support for \$100 million in Emergency Rent Assistance Homelessness Prevention funds

Dear Co-Chairs Woods, Gomberg and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of manufactured home owners/tenants living Curry County, I submit this testimony in support of Senate Bill 5511 to provide critical funding in the Oregon Housing and Community Services budget in order to:

Bring added focus and funds to homeless issues in rural areas specifically;
Prevent homelessness;
Rehouse people experiencing homelessness; and
Build and preserve more affordable housing units statewide, specifically to rural Oregon towns and counties.

Specifically, I submit this testimony in support of an investment of \$100 million in POP #90 for homelessness prevention funding.

Because of unreasonably high rent increases imposed by owners (mostly corporate investors), there is a threat to those living in manufactured home parks (many who are senior citizens living on a fixed budget, often solely on their Social Security checks each month) of being evicted due to late or non-payment of rent. If evicted, they stand to lose their manufactured home as well as not being able to find available shelter elsewhere. This will only add to the number of homeless in our county.

We are extremely grateful to Governor Kotek, legislative leadership, and this committee for recognizing the importance of moving swiftly with an urgent homelessness package to begin to address immediate needs.

\$100 million in funding for emergency rent assistance and eviction prevention to community action agencies and culturally specific programs across the state is an essential element of homelessness prevention. These funds are necessary because

of our high rate of homelessness, low availability and high cost of rental housing, chronic disparities in homeownership, and the economic uncertainty that Oregon renters continue to live under. We are facing an extreme housing crisis in our state, with unprecedented levels of need in urban and rural areas across the state.

Oregon is 4th in the nation of people per capita experiencing homelessness, according to the most recent national study, which is not surprising as we also have the 4th lowest rental vacancy rate in the country and renters pay the ninth highest rent in the country based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development. Four in 10 Oregonians rent their homes. According to the state economist, more than 50% of Oregon renters do not have enough money left over for food, medicine, and basic necessities. That means too many Oregon families are living on the edge and are one missed paycheck, high health care or car repair bill, or other setback away from losing their housing. That plays out in Oregon eviction court rooms every day, where more than 86% of all court evictions are due to a missed rent payment. The situation is more serious for Black Oregonians, who are 30% less likely to be homeowners and more likely to be renters due to the legacy of historic policies that blocked Black people from purchasing and owning property in our state.

Rental assistance keeps people housed, keeps families stable, keeps children in the classroom, and prevents homelessness. This is a smart investment today that will avoid higher human, financial, and societal costs later.

We strongly urge passage of \$100 million in emergency rental assistance and eviction prevention resources.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Canalin
Manufactured Home Owner/Tenant
Residing in Brookins-Harbor