

Submitter: Caleb Powell
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1523

As the Operations Manager for a affordable housing developer and property management company, A student at Portland State University in the Masters of Housing Program, and most importantly a tenant, SB 1523 is one of the worst bills I have ever heard proposed. What benefit does a paper application provide? Is the State Senate intent on making finding housing as difficult and expensive as possible for Oregonians?

How would you feel about a bill that required you to write a paper check in tandem with every credit card transaction? Or a bill that required you to record a paper record with every text sent? Digitization improves access and improves efficiency.

SB 1523 will increase rental rates, therefor increasing homelessness. It will also drastically increase the barriers for people exiting homelessness. This bill lacks reason, compassion, logic, and justification. Many of our policies on housing are already overly burdensome, driving many affordable housing providers to bankruptcy. We should be laser focused on reducing administrative burden to encourage more housing production and bring more individuals out of homelessness, not increasing that burden.

I beg you, as a constituent, to make Oregon a state that I can build my career in and be proud of, not one that I am forced to leave and reminisce about how good it used to be.

Caleb G Powell