

Submitter: Betty Holladay

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3503

Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

My name is Betty Holladay. I am a Willamette Law School graduate, a member of the Community Alliance of Tenants Policy Committee, a member of the Portland Poor People's Campaign, a retired State employee and also a member of SEIU 503's Retiree Union. I am also a life-long renter.

I am writing to support HB 3503. Normally, I would be in favor of continuity of laws throughout the State of Oregon – so that all citizens share equally in a law's benefits. However, having watched first-hand the whittling down of Oregon legislative bills supporting rent stabilization, I am now in favor of letting local jurisdictions have a hand at setting their own standards via their own ordinances. The City of Eugene is poised to take steps that will set forth strong but fair rental amount standards. I have watched their hearings and listened to the poignant stories of tenants (many of them elders on limited fixed incomes) who speak of price gouging by out of state corporate landlords – an issue with which I am personally familiar. I have heard that tough Eugene City Councilors cried. Enough is enough. If the State legislature cannot put forth effective measures, then we must look to other sources to bring parity to the landlord / tenant relationship as we gear up for the lengthy process of building more housing.. As a result, I support repealing ORS 91.225.

I do have a few concerns about a conflict of laws between the local ordinances and State laws. I am assuming that Legislative Council has thought through this issue when drafting the bill. Certainly, if an instance arises when an ordinance is more strict than State law, I presume that State law would supercede the local ordinance, as is often common in the law.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and, most of all, your service.

Respectfully,

Betty Holladay
Lake Oswego, OR