

Submitter: Karen Rogers

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Karen Rogers. I own a manufactured home and rent land in Brookings. I, along with all 43 other residents in our park, received a 14.6% rent increase this year. I am testifying in strong support of SB 611.

My husband and I are both 69. We've been married 50 years and have lived in our home for the last 14 years. Never in my life could I have imagined receiving a 14.6% increase. I still can't process it, especially in light of all the other impacts inflation is having on those of us on fixed incomes. My husband and I, we've lived with a budget for years. We live simply and within our means. I cut coupons, we don't eat out, we lower our thermostat in the winter. But for something this big, we'll have to make serious cuts. And some things, like prescription meds for my heart condition, we just can't cut. We'll get by this year, but if we had an increase like this next year we'd have to leave the area.

The increase goes into effect next month. My husband and I are lucky to have two of us, but many of my neighbors aren't as lucky. Everyone here is over 55, and some people have lived here as long as 25 years. The nail on the coffin is that, with these rent increases, we wouldn't even be able to sell our home. No one would buy it because the increases make it too unstable. That means we'd not only lose our home, but we'd lose our lifelong investment.

We love Brookings, we love Oregon. We are meant to be here. This is our forever home. We don't want to leave. We've worked our entire lives and just want to live out our retirement in peace. I urge you to pass SB 611 and keep our park afloat in Brookings.

Sincerely,

Karen from Brookings