

DevNW

DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

June 15, 2021

House Rules Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: In support of SB278 (including amendments to extend the eviction moratorium for those with pending rent assistance applications)

Chair Smith Warner, Vice Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

DevNW is an affordable housing development and asset building agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion and Clackamas counties. Each day we house more than 400 households in affordable housing, each year we serve more than 5000 low income families with financial literacy programming, and during COVID, we served more than 10,000 people with financial resiliency education and coaching. Through this work, we know that low-income Oregonians are still living on the edge, financially, and have not had time to fully recover from the economic impact of COVID.

Compounding this reality, delays in distributing hundreds of millions of dollars in rent assistance are putting families at risk of eviction after July 1, even if they have submitted an application and while they are powerless to speed up a process they don't control.

Providing a grace period or extension of the moratorium for those with a pending application will protect Oregon renters, allow OHCS and Community Action Agencies the time they need to process applications, and still make landlords whole on the rent they are owed.

We strongly support SB 278 with this amendment, and urge its passage before the end of the legislative session.

Sincerely,

Emily Reiman, CEO

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