



March 24, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 611

Dear Chair Jama and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges you to support Senate Bill 611, which will prevent homelessness and create stability for renter households in all parts of our state. This bill will protect tenants from extreme rent increases, while allowing landlords a fair and reasonable ability to increase rents if needed to cover their expenses.

Our coalition of over 100 member organizations includes local jurisdictions, grassroots community groups, tenant organizations, and affordable housing developers and landlords from across the state. From these various positions within Oregon's housing landscape, our members have endorsed SB 611 as a top priority bill for the 2023 legislature.

Renters around the state are struggling to make ends meet, with rising rents being a primary driver of housing insecurity, displacement and homelessness. This bill prevents homelessness by establishing a reasonable limit on how much the cost of a tenant's home can be increased in any given year. Unlike homeowners who can predict and reliably plan for the cost of their housing, renters are at the mercy of landlords' decisions to raise the rent. Reasonable regulation of this unique market dynamic – one that affects renter households' fundamental health, safety, and stability – is the right thing to do. At a time when Oregon is experiencing some of the highest rates of homelessness in the nation, we cannot afford to let rent spikes go unchecked.

We urge you to join the Oregon Housing Alliance in prioritizing passage of SB 611. The sooner this bill becomes law, the sooner we can stem the tide of homelessness all across Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cameron Herrington".

Cameron Herrington
Director of Policy and Advocacy
cherrington@neighborhoodpartnerships.org