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Written Testimony Submitted via OLIS Testimony Portal

The Honorable Kayse Jama and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Senate / Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 330

Dear Chair Jama and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for SB 330. The Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce represents more than 400 businesses (employing more than 15,000 local citizens) that are committed growing business opportunities and providing family-wage jobs in our community. These businesses are the life-blood of our community and our local economy.

This past year has been extremely difficult for our community. The onset of COVID-19 resulted in widespread business closures and economic uncertainty for employers and workers alike. These business closures meant lost jobs, lost customers, and lost income that ultimately made it difficult to meet financial obligations, including rent.

So many of our local property owners are also suffering from income loss as businesses and families are unable to make their payments. While protections have been extended for tenants, there is still a great deal of uncertainty for property owners. SB 330 would support our local property owners by providing a tax credit for the rent they have forgiven over this past year due to the pandemic, while also providing immediate relief to tenants.

SB 330 would offer a short-term tax credit for property owners that are willing to waive debt for tenants that are behind on rent. This tax credit would only be available for forgiven rent during the state of emergency and have a time limit to claim the tax credit. The tax credit would also be limited to in-state property owners, and provide relief to both the property owner and their tenants. We believe this is a better outcome for tenants if property owners have a way to provide some level of forgiveness for unpaid rents.

Please keep our local property owners and businesses as whole as possible and support SB 330.

Best regards,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM
President & CEO

To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.

To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.

