

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and other members of the Committee:

My name is Gail Buddai. I write to you in support of SB 611, which addresses the critical need for rental stability in our state.

I am proud to be a member of a “55-Plus Community” in a manufactured home park, which is among the many organizations in support of this bill. My landlord and owner actually lives in California so he has no idea how these rent increases are impacting us. SB 611 will provide some relief to renters who are struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising rents and limited resources. It will limit annual rent increases to 3% plus CPI or 8% whichever is lower, provide protections for all buildings over three years-old, and increase relocation assistance in no-fault evictions.

I personally know how difficult it can be to face rent increases, especially when it means having to choose between paying the bills or putting food on the table. I have had to make MAJOR adjustments to my budget, just to accommodate the annual 7% increases in rent. For that reason, I would prefer to see a maximum cap of 6% for rent increases - rather than the 8% suggested in this proposed legislation. The burden of housing insecurity is not limited to just myself; it affects families, seniors, and low-income renters throughout our state. We must act now to ensure that our communities have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. With the number of homeless on the streets right now, I foresee that number multiplying many times as seniors, on a fixed income (usually just Social Security, like myself) are forced out of their homes by OUTRAGEOUS rent increases.

In conclusion, I urge our legislators to support SB 611, which will provide much-needed relief to renters across our state. Housing is a human right, and it is our responsibility to ensure that all Oregonians have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Gail Buddai
McMinnville, OR

Thank you for listening to me.