

Submitter: Ivie Van Lent

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

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

I urge swift passage of SB 611. Four in 10 Oregonians rent their homes and are already paying some of the highest rents in the nation.

Every person that I know struggles with housing. Many people on the coast work in low-income jobs: they work at hotels, restaurants, shops, they work in landscaping or housekeeping. They work essential jobs that people always complain "nobody wants to do anymore," but they can not afford to live. My friends are all doing their best to stay afloat, and yet their rent is always going up and up. I think the housing here is frankly cruel. It does not take into account the needs of the people who actually live here. Landlords raise rent over and over simply because they can, and because they know that the people in Lincoln City are desperate for housing and have no other options. But that means that we are always living on the margins, barely scraping by. My best friend is a single mom, and she is scared every day knowing that if one emergency happens, or she misses an extra few days of work, then she could lose her apartment. Nobody should have to live this way. Being able to afford housing should be a human right.

Everyone in Oregon deserves safe and stable housing but our high rental costs and housing inequities are forcing families out of their homes. While the Oregon housing market provides skyrocketing property wealth for landlords, renters have nothing to fall back on when their monthly costs rise beyond their paychecks.

Very few people can afford a 14.6% housing cost increase. Getting an increase that high may as well be an eviction notice for Oregon renters.

SB 611 is a reasonable approach. Allowable annual rent increases for current tenants will be more predictable for current tenants and more homes will be protected. And between tenants, landlords can charge whatever the market will bear for vacant units.

SB 611 does not solve all the inequities in our housing market, but it is an important step to more fairness and is an essential element in the legislature's response to the state's housing and homelessness crisis.

Please vote yes on SB 611 to prevent more high-rent homelessness in our

communities.

Sincerely,  
Ivie van Lent