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Friday, January 27, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing and Development  
900 Court Street, NE, Salem OR 97301

Chair Jama and Members of the Committee,

We write to you today in strong support of SB 799. Preventing homelessness needs to be our shared top priority. SB 799 gives tenants who are seeking and have applied for rent assistance a safe harbor as they work with local assistance agencies. In addition, the bill reinstates the 10-day timeline for evictions that was passed during the pandemic.

These reasonable and fair protections were in place during the pandemic and were successful in stopping fast-tracked evictions. We are facing a growing housing crisis. Without immediate action, we will continue to see spikes in evictions and more individuals forced to live unsheltered.

In Multnomah County, we saw over 800 eviction filings in October, up from an average of 500 a month in 2019. Of those evictions in October, 92% were for unpaid rent. SB 799 will stop fast-tracked evictions and allow more time for tenants to seek resources, keeping more folks in their homes.

We appreciate your consideration and support for SB 799.

Sincerely,



Jessica Vega Pederson  
Multnomah County Chair



Sharon Meieran  
Commissioner, District 1



Susheela Jayapal  
Commissioner, District 2



Diane Rosenbaum  
Commissioner, District 3



Lori Stegmann  
Commissioner, District 4