



June 21, 2023

House Committee on Rules
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 611B

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Housing Alliance urges you to support Senate Bill 611B, 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 selected SB 611 as a top priority bill for the 2023 legislature.

Rising rents are a primary driver of housing insecurity, displacement and homelessness. 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 renters' fundamental health, stability and wellbeing – 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 611B. Please do not leave Salem this week without adopting this essential piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

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

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