

Subject: Support SB611
From: Cathy Fergusson <WGFERGUSSON1916@msn.com>
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To: "Sen.JaneenSollman@oregonlegislature.gov"
<Sen.JaneenSollman@oregonlegislature.gov>

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Dear Senator Janeen Sollman,

I'm writing to support SB611 to reduce high rent homelessness. SB611 is part of the Homelessness Prevention Package, setting reasonable, predictable rent increases for tenants.

The current rent increases of 14.6% is too high, especially following the pandemic where many are struggling to get back on their feet financially; not forgetting the impact on the vulnerable, such as families with children, single parents, those with disabilities, renters of color, even high school grads, and senior citizens on fixed incomes. Few can afford this extreme rent increase that many buildings and landlords have exploited.

Today, more than 86% of all court evictions are due to a missed rent payment. Recently, even though I had informed my landlord that I had applied for and was getting rent assistance, I found myself having to fight to keep from getting evicted.

SB611 narrows the loophole, applying rent stabilization to buildings older than three years, thereby increasing the number of people protected while exempting new construction.

SB611 increases relocation assistance to three-month's rent to help tenants displaced through no-fault of their own to avoid homelessness.

Please commit to supporting SB611, many in Oregon are counting on you.

Thank-you for your public service,

Catherine Fergusson
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