



June 14, 2021

Representative Smith Warner, Chair
House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 278-2

The League of Oregon Cities appreciates the historic investments and protections that the Legislature has passed this year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in recognition of the disproportionate impact the pandemic and economic downturn has had on low-income Oregonians and communities of color. While Oregon has made historic federal and state investments in rent assistance to keep Oregonians in their homes, more time is needed to ensure these critical dollars can reach those in need.

Local agencies are processing an unprecedented volume of assistance in response to unprecedented levels of need and it's clear that not everyone will receive payments by July 1. We need to allow our provider partners time to ensure that these historic federal resources can reach landlords. Oregon is not alone in this. Across the country as new relief has come in, systems and programs are rushing to get money out the door, but the eviction moratorium deadline is simply coming too fast. When the moratorium ends on June 30th, there will be no protections for people who cannot pay rent after July 1.

HB 278 and the -2 amendments will provide additional, much needed relief for tenants who have applied for and are awaiting rent assistance. The provisions will temporarily shield those tenants from eviction for nonpayment of rent for 60 days, allowing time for rent assistance payments reach landlords. This temporary protection will give our over-burdened and under-staffed service providers the time needed to process applications and distribute these historic resources to Oregonians most in need. SB. **We urge you to quickly pass SB 278-2 to stabilize Oregon renters and landlords.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Ariel Nelson, League of Oregon Cities