

Submitter: Rita Loberger

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: SB611

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and members of the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB611B. My name is Rita Loberger and I am a resident in Tigard/King City area.

I strongly urge you to pass SB611B as a critical homelessness prevention strategy for seniors, families, individuals and communities across the state suffering from rent spikes.

This year's rent increase was almost \$100 a month. With a life sustaining amount of \$2013 in social security a month, this leaves me very little to sustain my remaining financial obligations.

Senate Bill 611B provides a reasonable and necessary rent stabilization for tenants, while protecting landlords' and developers' ability to maintain a reasonable profit. Lawmakers did the right thing passing SB608 in 2019, the 2023 rate increase is an unreasonable 14.6%. Tens of thousands of renters are at risk of displacement due to these extreme rent increases.

Four in 10 Oregonians rent their homes and they pay the ninth highest rent in the nation. Studies show that just \$100 increase in median rents in a community is tied to a 9% increase in homelessness in that community. Extreme rent increases are happening across the state and the results are playing out in eviction court.

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.

SB611B is an action that the legislature can take now to have an immediate import on our state's housing crises as we also work on the longer term solutions of increasing supply and providing support to rehouse our currently homeless neighbors.

Please pass SB611B as soon as possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rita Loberger