

Submitter: Joseph Kosuda
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB722

Dear Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you today in support of SB 722. Oregon Renters deserve stable rental prices, free from unfair annual rent increases and price-fixing tools.

This bill would improve our state's rent stabilization statutes and prohibit the use of price-fixing software to inflate rents. This is a no-cost policy tool to help address our unfolding housing affordability crisis.

Too many Oregonians already struggle to find affordable housing before the additional burden of annual rent increases that far outpace average wage increases. SB 722 would help to stabilize rental prices and help Oregonians to maintain affordable housing and ensure that AI algorithms are not used to further burden Oregon renters.

In my case while receiving a special needs voucher my rent increased 27% in a two year period. It would have gone up faster, but the Department of Housing Authority disallowed the rent increase, due to another recent rent increase.

We must continue to address the needs of those most impacted by our housing crisis. A crisis being engineered by multiple industries which are colluding to form an illegal cartel.

I urge you to pass SB 722 to ensure that Oregonians are protected from unfair rental increases and price-fixing tools.

Sincerely,
Joseph Kosuda
Beaverton, OR