



March 27, 2023

To: Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development

Re: SB 611 – Prevent high-rent homelessness

My name is Joel Iboa, I live in Eugene, and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance, a movement of communities facing environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation.

I support SB 611 because too many people in Oregon struggle to find a home they can afford, and it doesn't have to be this way. Two out of every five Oregonians is a renter. In this time of economic instability and inflation, most renters are just one bad day away from eviction. All it takes is a missed paycheck, a flat tire, or an extreme rent hike to send a family into homelessness.

Because of past and present discrimination, communities of color are disproportionately harmed by the housing affordability crisis. For instance, Black women in Oregon are twice as likely to be evicted as white people. And we know from 2020 census data that Black, Indigenous, and Latino Oregonians make significantly less income than their white peers, making them more vulnerable to rent hikes, housing instability, and homelessness.

Every Oregonian deserves a healthy, affordable, safe home, no matter where we live or work, how much money we make, or our background. I urge you to move SB 611 forward to prevent more Oregonians from becoming homeless.

Sincerely,

Joel Iboa, Executive Director, Oregon Just Transition Alliance