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RE: Opposition to SB 1537

Good afternoon Chair Jama, members of the committee;

My name is Alli Sayre and I'm a tenant and the elected organizing coordinator for Portland Tenants United, the Portland city-wide tenant union. Through organizing, direct action, coalition building, and civic engagement, Portland Tenants United fights to keep people in their homes, and to achieve dignity and security for all tenants. I am here to testify against Senate Bill 1537, which would create a nonsensical requirement for a new type of cost impact statement whenever 12 particular agencies try to make necessary improvements to Oregon regulations and codes.

This bill seems like it was proposed by the type of person who looks at an emergent problem and says "we will work on addressing that but we need some more data. Let's pay some contractors millions of dollars to study this." This bill is basically the dictionary definition of unnecessary red tape, and let's be real: it almost certainly is actually a bad faith attempt by some ghoulish corporation or pro-developer organization to prevent needed reforms or life-saving regulations from being enacted in the future.

When I see an agency such as the State Fire Marshal on here, I wonder where we would be if such a bill had passed 40 years ago. Would we have been prevented from enacting better electrical codes, requiring sprinklers in commercial buildings, and other such improvements in building codes that over the years have dramatically decreased structure fires and deaths in said fires? Those regulations cost landlords and developers more money but they objectively save lives, and ultimately even do save money down the road, which is why insurers now support these additions.

This bill is supposed to help prevent displacement of low-income people by preserving affordable housing. This is transparently a bad-faith attempt to do just the opposite: stymie the ability of our government to enact meaningful reforms that will actually increase the availability of affordable housing in our communities. This bill benefits low-road developers who want to be able to continue to build as cheaply as possible to maximize their profits.

Portland Tenants United strongly believes that all people have a right to secure and *safe* housing, which means we support the ability of government to enact necessary regulations on developers and landlords to preserve life and act quickly to address issues when they arise. We oppose SB 1537 and ask the committee respectfully to vote **no** and not advance this bill.