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Senate Committee on Housing  
Chair Shemia Fagan  
900 Court St. NE, S-409,  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice-Chair Girod, and members of the committee:

My name is Kevin Cronin and I live in Eugene, Oregon (Senate District 7). I've been a community organizer for the last ten years and I live in one of the largest apartment complexes in Eugene. I believe that housing stability directly leads to economic success, housing gives people an opportunity to build a better life. In 2019, to succeed you need a place to call home. According to the City of Eugene Housing Policy Board, the Lane County housing market has a deficit of 13,500 affordable housing units. The high demand market has led to devastating consequences when a low income renter is no-cause evicted.

I serve on the Eugene Housing Policy Board's renter protection taskforce. During a November renters-roundtable on campus, the presenter asked if anyone has been no-cause evicted, or knew someone who has been. Every single hand in the room went up. The same question was posed to a meeting of over 100 grad students, and again, every single hand in the room went up.

I've been no-cause evicted three separate times. Each time was no-fault, with either the property being sold, or extensive remodeling to the entire apartment complex taking place. Each time was a major economic disruption. In 2011, following a no-cause eviction, I was homeless for several weeks until I could get into a place. In 2015 and 2016, my limited savings were wiped out.

In the past two years, I've had three separate folks stay on my couch following their no-cause eviction. They had a job and savings, but due to the lack of available housing they were struggling to find a place to live. If not for my meager generosity, these folks would've become homeless. Finding housing is an expensive proposition, and I watched these folks spend around \$300/apiece on applications for new housing.

Portland took some wonderful first steps to address no-cause evictions. This isn't just a Portland problem and people across Oregon who rent their homes are depending on the Legislature to act to provide basic protections and stability. We know we need to address a range of issues to solve the housing problems our communities are facing, and it is critical the Legislature act now to pass SB 608. Please vote yes on SB 608.

Sincerely,

Kevin C. Cronin