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TO: Chair Fagan  
Vice-Chair Fred Girod  
Members of the Senate Housing Committee

FR: Alma Raya, Legislative Specialist, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: Support of SB 608, Stable Homes

The Oregon AFL-CIO represents over 300,000 working people across Oregon and consider ourselves a voice for all workers in the legislative process. We are proud to support SB 608 so that all Oregon workers can have more housing stability.

The Oregon AFL-CIO has been a long-term advocate for issues affecting working people, often issues directly related to the workplace. However, housing is a fundamental principle of survival and stable homes are essential for working people and working families to have an opportunity to succeed.

As others have mentioned, Oregon is in the middle of a statewide housing crisis. In both urban and rural areas, renters face the threat of no-cause eviction and extreme rent increases at any time. Renters forced to leave their homes for no fault of their own often face the very real threat of homelessness. Every day, we see how this crisis impacts our members as well as all workers.

SB 608 has two critical components, both of which are essential to easing the housing crises for the most vulnerable workers:

1. It ends the unjust use of no-cause evictions, ensuring that tenants who follow the rules are not ripped from the homes unfairly.
2. It will curb the economic evictions happening throughout the state and help stabilize rents so that tenants can have some modicum of economic stability.

Oregon's housing crises is going to require dozens of solutions but protecting working Oregonians who rent their homes from sudden displacement is one of the most critical. When a worker's life is disrupted by an event like you have heard about from many tenants today, it is incredibly damaging to their families, to their mental health and it is incredibly damaging to our economy. Oregon's working families are stronger when everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. We must act now to ensure the bright future of our state.

We respectfully urge swift passage of SB 608 so that working Oregonians can have increased protections from unfair and unjust evictions and rent increases.