

Dear Senator Fagan and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to thank you for beginning the hard work of protecting access to housing for renters in Oregon. I object to the 7% + CPI cap on annual increase on the grounds it is still too high for most Oregon workers, especially older ones. Oregon's historic SB100 listed housing goals that defined a housing supply that meets community needs as "one that offers people a range of different places to live, different community densities to choose from, and does not overburden the financial resources of any group living there." To allow rental increases that could easily rise 10% a year is to continue to fail to meet this goal. It defies logic that we accept reasonable regulation of price increases for the utilities that light and heat our housing, but not the reasonable regulation of the rental pricing of that housing. On a personal note, my older brother just received another increase in his rent for the next lease period beginning April 1, from \$905 to \$955. He is a 63 year old retail worker with a high school education who's been employed for over 15 years by one of Oregon's most historic and iconic family-owned businesses. His wage has not kept up with his rent increases nor will it, ever. The likelihood of his finding a better paying job now is zero. He is representative of thousands of older workers who are now constantly having to make decisions between food, medicine, heat, and rent. Where will this end? Please stand up to the political pressure you face and give Oregonians hope for better protection from homelessness by passing a tighter cap on rent increases.

Sincerely,

Lisa Morrison  
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Portland OR 97215

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Lisa Morrison