Dear Oregon Senators,

In the simplest terms the cause for the quick rise in rents in our state, more specifically the metro areas of Portland, Salem and Eugene are due to one factor that was learned on the first day of Economics 101. On day one the professor explained the concept of Supply and Demand. If Supply is held constant and Demand is increased the price for the product goes up. The influx of new residents to our state is happening faster than new supply can be created. The main reason Supply cannot be created fast enough is the restrictive complicated permitting processes in place in the major metro areas in the state. Streamlining and simplifying the permitting process will help increase the pace of adding new housing supply; however, the proposed restrictions in SB-608 will slow if not stop investing in new housing. In addition SB-608 will reduce the investment in existing housing upgrades and ongoing maintenance needed to keep neighborhood attractive and livable.

I would urge all Senators to vote against or at lease reduce the restrictions outlined in the proposed SB-608.