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Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Sanchez and Noble, and Members of the Committee

I am a residential Realtor in the Greater Portland Metropolitan area and I am strongly in support of SB 608. I have been a Realtor in Portland since 1990 and I have seen first hand how housing instability has risen dramatically due to increases in rents, lack of adequate tenant protections and the overall effect of market forces left unchecked. Having insecurity around housing negatively affects our schools, our neighborhoods, our safety net and our sense of well being.

I have been an Investment Property Owner in the past and currently sell investment property for and to folks as well, so I know that there are many things to take into account when crafting legislation that affects an investment property owner's rights. I think this legislation strikes a fair balance between allowing for folks to make a profit and taking steps towards solving our current housing crisis. I think any small inconvenience caused by these new requirements are more than offset by the benefits and I don't see anything I this bill that will stop Realtors from being able to do what we do best...helping sellers and buyers navigate challenges to accomplish their goals.

I know that there will always be some folks that want to play around with the details on a bill like this and forge it more perfectly in their favor, but I urge the decision makers in this room not to let minor objections sidetrack this important and urgent legislation. People's lives are literally on the line, and if we wait until all sides find it perfectly agreeable, we will miss this opportunity to make the change that is so desperately needed.

I ask for your support of SB 608 in order for us to provide stable housing for all Oregonians.

Thanks for your hard work on this issue. It is a step in the right direction to make Oregon a better place to live.