

My name is Joshua Caraco. I am a tenant and advocate in Eugene. I am working with a city task team as well as a newly forming non-profit that is forming a tenant hotline, and a neighborhood association group. I have facilitated meetings with local renters and help refer people to legal services. I also helped author a survey the city put out to renters. Over and over we seem to find that tenants have trouble accessing services already available and could use services that do not exist. I would hope that there is some sort of flexibility when grant applicants are reviewed so that cities and community organizations have access and ability to fund programs that will most effectively help our communities. We are certainly in a housing emergency. I approve and believe Speaker Kotek and others' holistic approach of tenant services, subsidies for building Affordable Housing, and lowering barriers to market rate building (particularly of the most affordable types) among other things, is very important. I believe (and most available research shows) that doing all of these things at the same time is the way we will solve this crisis. We know that we need more supply and we also know that supply alone will not help the most vulnerable people.

Thank you for your time,

Joshua Caraco