

SCREAM! Can you hear the landlords of Oregon screaming? I can, we do, daily. I am one of them.

I have felt the effects of Covid-19 directly in my family as our son-in-law lost his battle to this disease. And I feel the loss of landlords all over the state as we lose money daily, weekly, monthly and now yearly to this disease. Some of us are losing our income, our properties, and our way of life. All the legislation passed has only addressed help for the tenant... but no help for the landlord.

I know landlords that have thrown in the towel. They are selling, causing the problem to exacerbate. We have a housing shortage in Southern Oregon, a really BIG shortage. Housing costs are up again, need is up, and legislation is a lot of the problem.

When you take away the rights of the landlord, you are not helping the tenant, you are causing the problem. I have been a landlord in Oregon for 40 years. EVERYTIME legislation has passed laws to "help" tenants, it has had the opposite effect. EVERYTIME rents have increased and the number of available units tightens.

Point in fact: when you took away the landlords right to choose if they wanted to allow housing vouchers and made it mandatory that they take them, landlords across the state raised rents above the level the vouchers would allow. That made me mad. I could see rents increasing across the board, from low rent to high rent units. Land lording is market driven just like all other businesses. I didn't want to raise my rents, I was happy where they were. But when I listed a house, no one would look at it. I had to raise the rent just to get people to even consider looking at one of my units.

Now during COVID-19, you have literally "tied the hands" of landlords, but how long can we stay afloat? You have not given us any relief from our obligations! We still have to pay our creditors and mortgages. Being a landlord is not an evil thing. We offer a great service. We provide good, safe housing that keeps families that can't afford to own a home off the streets.

Now you want to extend the non-payment of rent for another year! Isn't that a drastic, unnecessary measure!!? With vaccines available, most people will be immunized by this summer. Most likely we will be well on our way to opening up and back to normal long before that! Why punish landlords anymore?

Please do not vote for that long of a moratorium. It is UNREASONABLE. The landlord ship is sinking.

Kay Watts