



community alliance of tenants

Dear Senators and Representatives of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) in support of funding for rent assistance to help COVID impacted tenants. Formed in 1996.,CAT is Oregon's only statewide, grassroots, tenant-controlled, tenant-rights organization. CAT educates, organizes and develops the leadership of low-income tenants. We believe that housing is the basis of a strong community. So, we bring tenants together to organize and collectively advocate for fair and equal protections in housing practices and policies.

I believe that Oregon's economic recovery should help those who were hurt most by COVID-19 and our corresponding recession: primarily Oregonians who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or people of color, women; immigrants; and/or LGBTQ+. Investments that are rooted in racial, gender, and economic justice are what this moment calls for. Now is not the time for Oregon to save money or cut budgets.

By prioritizing the policies included in The People's Budget, you will build an equity-based budget that ensures Oregon emerges stronger than before and is ready to weather future storms.

- 154,000 renters in Oregon -- around 1 in 7 -- have fallen behind on their rent, putting them in danger of eviction and homelessness. The Housing Crisis, is made much worse by the public health crisis of COVID-19. These life-threatening crises of homelessness looms largest over people of color. Failing to keep people housed could cost Oregon 1 to 3 billion in health costs alone. Help tenants fully recover by investing at \$400- to \$800 million of federal and state resources in rent and other stabilization services.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to give feedback.

Sincerely,

Kim McCarty

Executive Director

Community Alliance of Tenants



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