



LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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June 14, 2021

House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St.
Salem OR 97301

Dear Chair Smith Warner, Co-Chair Drazen, and Members of the Committee:

Lane County, along with so many local governments across Oregon, responded to the Covid-19 pandemic in a myriad of ways. Our top priority was, and is, to render assistance to sustain our residents through these last 18 months. We have stood up business assistance programs, created Covid testing, monitoring, and vaccination programs, and managed unprecedented amounts of fiscal supports and programming all in pursuit of maintaining health, normalcy, and the economy.

Among this important work, we continue to provide resources for renters and landlords during these trying times. Our priority is to ensure that additional residents do not succumb to houselessness. To date, Lane County has distributed in excess of \$12M of assistance through our own portal, plus an additional amount via assistance through the State's (Allita) portal.

Today we write in support of the dash two amendment to SB 278. This amendment will ensure that our months of hard work to support keeping people in their homes will not be for naught. The sunset of the eviction moratorium looming on July 1 should not result in an eviction when an eligible tenant is in the queue for any one of the rental assistance programs which exist in this state.

The dash two amendment will ensure that the eviction moratorium remains in place and that eligible applicants who can demonstrate their presence in the queue for assistance will not be subject to eviction proceedings.

This is a simple amendment that modifies the eviction process, and we urge adoption of this important document.

Sincerely,

Joe Berney, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners