

I write to support this bill.

I am a renter in Portland. I have rented my apartment for the past five and a half years. Many of my neighbors have rented theirs for longer. Our apartments are our homes. It is not because we do not want to own them that we do not. It is because it is easier in this market for investors to buy buildings and charge us rent and skim profit off the top than it is for us to own our own homes. They have the capital to invest and own the building; we do not.

This bill would not fundamentally change that equation. What it would do is afford tenants an additional modicum of housing security. It is a small thing—it does not take much for a landlord motivated by profit to find a cause to evict their tenants, and that would not change under this bill. But it would make it a little easier for tenants to stay in our homes. It would make my neighbors and me feel more secure. It would help us live in peace, rather than in fear of having to find another place to live.

And it would do all this only by slightly inconveniencing landlords. They would still be able to make investments and own properties and earn profit; it would just be slightly more difficult for them to kick Oregonians out of their homes when the landlord's only motivating factor is money. HB 2372 would be a small change in our overall system, but it is still a needed one.

It is a strange situation to have a home but have so little security from eviction. As long as we are at the whims of our landlords, it is hard for any tenant in Oregon to truly call the state home. Please pass HB 2372 and help Oregonians like my neighbors and me stay here in the state we love.

Thank you,
Kieran Hanrahan
Portland