



June 21, 2023

Representative Julia Fahey
Chair, House Committee on Rules
900 Court St NE, HR-DT
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 611B. My name is Timothy Morris and I serve as the Executive Director of the Springfield Eugene Tenant Association. SETA is a non-profit, public service organization that is dedicated to renters' rights and interests. We provide a free hotline as community support and we are often times a renter's first call when they receive a rent increase or eviction notice. We presently resolve over 180 cases a month.

The status quo is not working.

Nearly half of the state of Oregon rents their homes. [According to a state economist, more than 50% of Oregon renters do not have enough money left over](#) for food, medicine, and basic necessities. Nearly a quarter of all Oregonians are living paycheck-to-paycheck and are at direct risk of homelessness. At this rate, an unregulated rent increase is akin to an eviction notice.

SB 611B is an action that the legislature can take now to have an immediate impact on our state's housing crisis as we also work on the longer term solutions of increasing supply and providing support to rehouse our currently homeless neighbors.

Without SB 611, we will see half-empty apartment units and our already overburdened streets double in size. **We urge you to pass SB 611 immediately to support those most vulnerable in our community.** If you'd like to connect with me, please reach out to tmorris@springfieldeugenetenantassociation.com or call me at 541-357-7331. Thank you for your consideration.



Sincerely,

Timothy Morris

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim".

Executive Director
Springfield Eugene Tenant Association.