



Oregon Just Transition Alliance

June 21, 2023

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

Re: SB 611B - Prevent high-rent homelessness

My name is Joel Iboa, I live in Eugene and am the Executive Director of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance, a movement of communities facing environmental racism, climate change, and economic exploitation.

I support SB 611B because too many people in Oregon struggle to find a home they can afford, and it doesn't have to be this way. Two out of every five Oregonians is a renter. In this economic instability and inflation time, most renters are just one bad day away from eviction. All it takes is a missed paycheck, a flat tire, or an extreme rent hike to send a family into homelessness. I strongly urge you to pass SB 611B as a critical homelessness prevention strategy for seniors, families, individuals, and communities suffering from rent spikes across the state.

Because of past and present discrimination, communities of color are disproportionately harmed by the housing affordability crisis. For instance, Black women in Oregon are twice as likely to be evicted as white people. And we know from 2020 census data that Black, Indigenous, and Latino Oregonians make significantly less income than their white peers, making them more vulnerable to rent hikes, housing instability, and homelessness.

Every Oregonian deserves a healthy, affordable, safe home, no matter where we live or work, how much money we make, or our background. I urge you to move SB 611B forward to prevent more Oregonians from becoming homeless.

Sincerely,

Joel Iboa

Executive Director

Oregon Just Transition Alliance