Chair Dexter, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, and other members of the Committee:

My name is Betty Holladay. I am supporting HB 2001 - and writing in particular about the eviction protection sections of this bill. I am on the Policy Committee of the Community Alliance of Tenants and a member of the Portland Poor People's campaign. As a law student in the 1990s, I represented a few indigent clients in landlord / tenant matters. Finally, I am a lifelong renter.

A couple of months ago, I got a frantic text from a friend who explained that her daughter was due in eviction court on a Monday. The daughter had engaged in self-help measures by withholding a rent payment after she was double-charged over several months for her utilities. This renter had little time to get an attorney to fight her eviction. I don't know how she did it but she found one - over a weekend. When she appeared in court, luckily the case was continued due to legal errors on the part of the non-represented landlady.

There is generally not enough time to obtain legal counsel or to put together a case via the current system. And there is certainly not enough time to replace absent rent monies when a medical emergency arises, a sudden job loss occurs, a roommate leaves, or your employer (such as the State of Oregon) fails to pay you correct wages. Pandemic protections are gone. Evictions are increasing.

HB 2001 adds some tenant protections to the law. It lengthens the eviction period to a reasonable one so that legal assistance can be obtained, back rent owed can be amassed, AND it ends the heinous practice which allowed a landlord to refuse payment once an eviction notice was issued.

The law protects both landlords and tenants, but it is still somewhat skewed towards landlords. HB 2001 levels the playing field with regard to eviction protections. I encourage its passage.

Betty Holladay
Lake Oswego, Oregon