

Submitter: Betty Holladay
On Behalf Of: Judith Foster
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure: SB611

Dear Chairman Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and other Committee Members:

My name is Judith Foster. I am 76 years old, a single retired state employee, and a renter. I am writing in support of SB 611 - for the most part.

I have lived in my older Forest Grove apartment since 2018. In that year, it was bought by new owners – a corporation - and my rent shot up by \$100 a month when I signed a new lease. After that, the yearly rent increases were moderate with even no change in rent for the one year when the pandemic hit. However, in 2021, I decided to work part time in order to meet my rising living expenses. I now work TWO jobs – one with my church in children’s activities and the other as an in-home caregiver. I can only work a certain amount of hours in my jobs due to my arthritis and bursitis pain. In 2022, I received a rent increase of about 6% which added another \$80 to my monthly rent amount. That is a pretty steep amount for me.

If my rent continues to increase like this, then I worry about how I will be able to pay my living expenses. I guess I can save money by cutting back on meats and eating more beans. Anyway, as you can see, if I am having to go back to work at my age, I cannot afford to deal with high rent increases. That is why I am supporting this bill, SB 611. I want to be able to stay in my apartment and pay my normal living expenses. While I appreciate the attempts of this bill to rent limit increases down to 8% maximum, I personally would like to see a cap of 4% put on rents. That way I can somewhat keep up with rising rents as I get my SSA and PERS COLAs. Please consider passing this bill with amended changes to the rent cap.

Thank you for you listening to me.

Judith Foster
Forest Grove, Oregon.