

Submitter: M Scott

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

I urge swift passage of SB 611. Four in 10 Oregonians rent their homes and are already paying some of the highest rents in the nation.

I urge sb 611 get passed very swiftly. Corporate landlords mostly from out of the state are raising rent to a level that makes it very difficult on members of a community like myself to actually live in apartment and still eat. If I were to have a serious illness that would need medical attention I could not live in my apartment any longer. One of my neighbours who is an older chap, is begging to live with another resident. He has lived in the complex for a long while. We do not get regular upgrades on our apartments and yet we are left at too high of costs to live in them after having done so for over 10 years. Our rent ends up being more than our pay intake over time while everything in our apartment dwindles in even working the way it should to match the cost. We are tax payers and deserve to not be gentrified out by the cost of living in our communities. The pandemic has shown us to have very little social capital and the cause is no one can stick around and commit to a surrounding neighborhood because we get priced out. We need social capital to help with the challenges going forward such as disasters and surviving them. Anyway, SB 611 would be a start in the right direction and it should pass because we're in a "housing crisis" and rising rent will add to more people contemplating living out of the car or on the sidewalk and who actually pay taxes. I'm rationing my food as I type my testimony. Many people are cutting down on food intake. These are people that are either in full time jobs and living in cars or about to because of a 14.6 percent increase. We face eviction and being pushed out of our communities. We've said this since 2015 and it's gotten better at times but the current economy has made things much more brutal. Our rent in Oregon going up 14.6 percent is not something I can pay nor anyone that I am aware of can pay that is a renter. We all have the same story of being squeezed by rent such that it's a real problem of security. We as tenants need this increment to not become a reality. Again, while SB 611 is not perfect, it is the step in the right direction and does send a message to nefarious corporate landlords (especially) that are squeezing us to the point that it's dangerous. Thank you for SB 611 coming out of committee and I hope that it passes.

Everyone in Oregon deserves safe and stable housing but our high rental costs and housing inequities are forcing families out of their homes. While the Oregon housing market provides skyrocketing property wealth for landlords, renters have nothing to

fall back on when their monthly costs rise beyond their paychecks.

Very few people can afford a 14.6% housing cost increase. Getting an increase that high may as well be an eviction notice for Oregon renters.

SB 611 is a reasonable approach. Allowable annual rent increases for current tenants will be more predictable for current tenants and more homes will be protected. And between tenants, landlords can charge whatever the market will bear for vacant units.

SB 611 does not solve all the inequities in our housing market, but it is an important step to more fairness and is an essential element in the legislature's response to the state's housing and homelessness crisis.

Please vote yes on SB 611 to prevent more high-rent homelessness in our communities.

Sincerely,
M Scott