

Submitter: Angelita pnwpolicyangel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Dear Elected Officials,

With a housing shortage, a depression on the horizon, and a worker force that has been invisibly disabled by long COVID in ways that we have yet to track, keeping people housed needs to be a priority. This includes making sure that rents are reasonable and consistent. A 14.6% raise on my apartment would be an additional \$248/month. I am lucky to be in a place in my life where that would be a pain point, but would not leave me homeless. It would leave many of my friends and neighbors homeless though. The people that make our state worth living are often the ones who are paid the least.

Our artists, baristas, servers, administrative assistants, etc. can't afford to live in the cities where these jobs are available because the average rent is \$1700 a month, before an increase. The average Black, Latino, Asian, and Indigenous family can't afford to live anywhere within Portland city limits. The average minimum wage worker can't afford to live here unless they rent a bedroom in a house with 5 other roommates.

The people in these positions are the heart of our state. If we want to keep everything that makes Oregon vibrant and unique, we have to make it so that it's affordable enough that everyone can live here. I want to live in a state where Black and Latino families can rent and own homes. I want to live in a state that gives back as much to its people as it receives from their talent, culture, and perspectives.

Please vote yes on SB 611, the health and well being of our state depends on it.

(I am representing myself and no other governing body).

Sincerely,

Angelita