

Submitter: Rae Jesequel

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,

Please vote yes on Senate Bill 611.

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.

I am a homeowner now, but I rented for years in Oregon, and always lived in fear of the next rent hike and whether it would be too much for our family. It was scary to worry about about where we would go, if our kids would have to go to all new schools and leave their familiar faces and places behind. Stable homes foster a sense of community, bring safety and sense of belonging, and make people feel proud and responsible for where they live and the others around them. This has a ripple effect of benefits for everyone. Please vote yes on SB 611

Sincerely,
Rae Jesequel
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