

Submitter: Deian Salazar

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'm writing to ask that you prioritize the immediate passage of Senate Bill 611. Four in 10 Oregonians rent their homes and already pay some of the highest rents in the country, which is concerning for a state as great, progressive, and pro-worker as Oregon.

Everyone in Oregon deserves secure and reliable 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 which for many don't even constitute a living wage at this point.

Very few people can afford a 14.6% housing cost increase. Getting an increase that high may as well be an eviction notice for the people in our state that we hold dear, especially our diverse communities and hard working Oregonians.

SB 611 is a safe, moderate bill that will stem the bleeding. 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 will not solve all the injustices in our housing market, but it is a vital step to more fairness and is an essential element in the legislature's response to the state's housing and homelessness crisis.

SB 611 will help protect our valued citizens from housing instability caused by unpredictable rapid rent increases. If we do not do this, then we will be revealing the Oregon Promise to be nothing but a facade, which as a citizen of the state of Oregon, I refuse to believe.

Vote yes on SB 611 to help the people in their fight for basic needs, to move forward the state of Oregon on this vital issue for the people.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Deian Salazar
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