

Submitter: Nicholas Royal

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Dear Chair Jama and the Members of the Committee,

My name is Nicholas Vaughn Royal, and I am a renter in Eugene who resides in State House District 8. I'm writing to you today to showcase my strong support for SB 611.

I believe that if SB 611 passes it will be a critical homelessness prevention strategy that protects low-income people and their families from extreme rent increases and displacement.

I am personally dealing with said increases. This year, my rent will be raised by 14.2% which would be a \$200+ increase. I was informed by several pro-landlord constituents at a recent city council meeting that it was to cover property taxes and general maintenance. That's absurd considering I have to pay for any maintenance that they do to my place, in full, as well as any utilities. And the fact that property taxes only go up by 3% a year. This situation is untenable and is a strong reason why homelessness has had a boom these last couple of years. I just want to be able to comfortably live my life without having to worry if I can even make rent this month. Every. Single. Month. Personal feelings aside, when 86% of eviction filings are due to unaffordable rent we have to ask: why? And is this reasonable or sustainable for a healthy economy? The answer is it isn't and SB 611 is a step in the right direction when it comes to helping alleviate this issue.

I hope you can see where I am coming from. I'm a renter in Eugene who just wants to remain a renter in Eugene. I'm someone who has seen the effects of homelessness on almost every block around me. Let's stop these run away nonsense rent increases, Let's pass SB 611.

In solidarity,

Nicholas Vaughn Royal