

Submitter: Carol Moore

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and members of the committee,

My name is Carol Moore and I live in Beaverton. I strongly urge you to pass SB611, Rent Stabilization and Relocation Assistance to protect Oregon tenants from predatory rent increases and evictions.

Poverty and homelessness are policy choices. We can either choose to support our population with affordable rents, or we can spend taxpayer money trying to keep people from living in tents under our highway passes and on our sidewalks. This is a fundamental humanitarian choice: allow passive investors the right to exploit our citizens to pad their own portfolios, or to support the people who live and work in Oregon.

Oregon has the ninth highest rents in the country, and our rents are so unaffordable that we are unable to attract the workforce needed to provide services to our citizens. Educators, medical providers, child care providers and direct service professionals all make too little to afford rent in Oregon at the beginning of their careers. These jobs are the backbone of our economy.

Worse yet, Oregonians currently living in the state on fixed incomes, such as seniors and people with disabilities on Social Security, cannot keep pace with rising rents and are being increasingly driven into poverty and homelessness.

While owners and landlords argue they provide a public service with their investment in housing, the truth is that they invest their capital in multi-family housing for the lucrative return on investment offered in comparison to higher risk investments or low-yielding bonds. It is disingenuous to rebrand passive investors as "housing providers." Their interest in making the maximum return is revealed in the call to increase subsidies for lower income tenants – which, while beneficial for a small number of tenants, comes with a huge administrative burden and shifts taxpayer funds into the pockets of the investors.

Please pass SB611, Rent Stabilization and Relocation Assistance without delay to protect Oregonians and reduce our homeless crisis.

Sincerely,
Carol Moore