

Submitter: Kris Bifulco

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. It is unconscionable to me that a housing cost increase is allowed to outpace inflation, especially at a time when so many are already struggling and when the state is understood to be facing a housing crisis. Housing crises are not solved with astronomical rent increases; they are made far worse and create a large divide between those who are housing insecure (or on the verge of insecurity) and those who can afford to live here.

As a homeowner, I strongly support SB 611. If I were not a homeowner, I would struggle to afford market rate rental prices. 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.

Please vote yes on SB 611 to prevent more high-rent homelessness in our communities. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kris Bifulco