

Submitter: Paul Diller

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Dear Chair Jama and Vice-chair Anderson:

I am sympathetic to overall goal of this bill: protecting residential tenants from rent increases that they cannot afford. I believe that the legislature has gone about the problem the wrong way since 2019, however. Rather than mandating rent control top down from the state level, the legislature should simply repeal the preemption provision passed in the 1980s that prohibits cities from imposing their own rent control policies. Let Portland have rent control if it wants it, and let Pendleton or Ontario not have it if they don't want it. The state should not be micro-managing local communities in this regard. To move in this direction, the committee could keep the current 7% + CPI cap on applicable rent increases and then allow cities or counties (for unincorporated areas) to impose a lower cap going forward.

Sincerely,
Paul Diller