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March 30, 2023

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3503

Good morning Vice-Chairs Gamba and Helfrich, members of the committee:

My name is Alli Sayre and I'm the elected organizing coordinator for Portland Tenants United, the Portland city-wide tenant union. Through organizing, direct action, coalition building, and civic engagement, Portland Tenants United fights to keep people in their homes, and to achieve dignity and security for all tenants. I'm testifying today in support of HB 3503, which would remove the state pre-emption on local rent control.

One of the greatest barriers to increasing tenant protections at the local level has been the state preemption on rent control. In addition to actual rent control being a non-starter, municipalities are fearful of passing certain reforms because in the past landlords have been able to get them overturned by deeming them to also be rent control. Removing the state preemption would allow local governments to better address local issues. In this state of emergency, we should be trying everything we can to keep housing affordable and keep people in their homes. Please vote to move this bill forward.

Sincerely,

Alli Sayre
Portland Tenants United Organizing Committee