

Submitter: Betty Holladay
On Behalf Of: Community Alliance for Tenants
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Good morning Co-Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Betty Holladay. I am a member of the Policy Committee for the Community Alliance of Tenants. We are a part of the Fair Shot Coalition. We encourage you to support Fair Shot's People's Budget.

This budget includes smart, community-led policies, investments, and workforce supports for Oregon. These include:

- Funding for Indigenous Language Justice, Reproductive Health and Access to Care, and for more Public Defenders.
- The final part of the People's Budget includes \$100 million for emergency rent assistance and eviction prevention resources via HB 5511.

Rent assistance is needed to counter rising evictions, many of which are caused by an inability to pay rent. This assistance is a smart investment when coupled with SB 611A which is pending passage in the Senate. That bill ensures reasonable rent increases on some older buildings so that taxpayer rental assistance dollars are conserved.

One underlying story of rental housing is price gouging by corporate landlords. People shared stories with me which were eerily similar to mine. After a change to new corporate ownership or management, rent increases were proposed by the new managers at the MAXIMUM amount allowed by State law. Tenant advocates found that rents for younger buildings were also being raised to EGREGIOUS amounts – up to 50% - since those buildings were not covered by Oregon's rental cap statute. To top this off, there is now a PENDING NATIONAL LAWSUIT against rental management companies, some here in Oregon, for violating federal law by PRICE-FIXING RENTS. These stores represent unconscionable acts. But we need to help those impacted.

We are asking you to invest in rental assistance and other aspects of the People's Budget. Thank you.