



March 3, 2025

Senator Khanh Pham
Chair, Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 31

Dear Chair Pham, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development:

On behalf of the Portland Housing Bureau (PHB), I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 31.

PHB works to create stable and long-term affordable housing opportunities for all Portlanders. We do this through financing and development of new affordable housing, funding and services for renters and homeowners, and preservation of existing affordable housing.

When a tenant is no longer able to afford their rental housing, their displacement can be extremely destabilizing as they try to find a new home and cover the costs of moving. To prevent displacement and to support tenants when it does occur, PHB offers programs for tenants facing eviction, including legal support and mediation services, and education about the mandatory renter relocation assistance program. SB 31 would offer a complementary support applicable when affordability restrictions expire.

SB 31 proposes one-time assistance to help tenants in expiring regulated rental housing, offering financial support to offset rent increases after the expiration of affordability restrictions. If a tenant relocates, the funds can be used for moving costs, first month's rent, security deposits, utility transfer fees, housing navigation services, or other eligible expenses.

We believe that the Expiring Affordability Mitigation Tenant Fund will provide important support for vulnerable populations who may face significant increases to their rent when restricted affordability periods end.

PHB supports SB 31.

Sincerely,

Helmi Hisserich, Director