

Submitter: Jim Labbe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB722

Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support of SB 722. Oregon renters are the 6th most cost burdened in the nation. Our eviction crisis is growing with the vast majority of evictions resulting from tenants not being able to afford rent.

We can't address the housing and homeless emergency without stabilizing rents. Prohibiting the use of price-fixing software to inflate rents should be a no brainer. It is illegal for landlords to collude by sharing rents but somehow this doesn't apply to AI software.

I have seen no credible evidence that reducing the rent stabilization exemption for new construction to 7 years will impact new construction. Portland, ME passed the strongest rent stabilization ordinance in the country (70% of CPI cap, no new construction exemption) in 2020. After implemented in 2021, there was no evidence that the policy reduced construction of rental units.

Thanks for your consideration,

Jim Labbe,
North Portland