

March 17th, 2025
Senate Committee on Housing and Development
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St NE Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for SB 722

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

My name is Chris Odom, and I am writing in strong support of SB 722, which will help prevent displacement and extreme rent spikes by strengthening Oregon's rent stabilization laws and prohibiting the use of price-fixing software to artificially inflate rents.

I have been renting the same house for over ten years. Throughout that time, I have seen different landlords come and go, but nothing compared to the situation I faced when a trustee took over my property. The trustee attempted to pressure me into signing away my rights—something I only realized was illegal after reaching out to the Community Alliance of Tenants for guidance. Without their support, I could have lost my home simply because I didn't know my rights. This experience showed me firsthand how unstable rental practices put tenants at risk.

While I have not experienced rent increases recently, I have in the past, and I know how devastating they can be. A clear and enforceable limit on annual rent increases is essential to ensure that rent remains affordable and predictable for tenants, preventing sudden, unaffordable hikes that force people out of their homes.

Additionally, I strongly support SB 722's provision prohibiting the use of price-fixing AI software to artificially inflate rents. Housing should be a basic right, not a formula in an algorithm designed to maximize profits at the expense of real people. Stabilizing rent costs is necessary so that tenants like me, who have invested in their communities, are not priced out by impersonal, automated decisions.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to pass SB 722 to keep people in their homes and ensure fairness in Oregon's housing market. Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting Oregon renters.

Sincerely,
Chris Odom