

March 18th, 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 Linda Spencer-Blackledge, 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 a long-term tenant in Portland, living in the same apartment since 2015. Despite my apartment complex being owned by the City of Portland since 2017 or 2018, maintenance has been severely neglected. When my furnace broke in April 2020, it took until December 2021—almost two years—to be replaced. One of my neighbors has been living without a functioning oven for over two years. My own front door has been damaged since 2018, and despite repeated requests, it has never been fixed.

Meanwhile, my rent continues to increase every year. Right now, I pay \$1,135 per month. Since my husband's passing in November, I fear I may be forced out of my home due to my reduced income. I don't have the savings to cover deposits, and the financial strain of moving is overwhelming.

A clear and enforceable cap on rent increases is critical for people like me who are struggling to stay in our homes. SB 722 would extend rent stabilization protections to thousands of Oregonians and prevent unnecessary displacement. Additionally, this bill would prohibit the use of price-fixing AI software, which allows corporations to manipulate rent prices for profit, further worsening the housing crisis.

No one should have to choose between paying rent and living in unsafe, neglected housing. Stronger tenant protections ensure that landlords—whether private or city-owned—cannot continue to raise rents while ignoring basic maintenance. For all of these reasons, I urge lawmakers to pass SB 722 to ensure rent remains affordable and that tenants are treated with the dignity we deserve.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to protecting Oregon renters.

Sincerely,
Linda Spencer-Blackledge