



Portland Housing Bureau

March 18, 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 722

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 722. This bill would promote housing stabilization by helping prevent displacement and extreme rent increases through an extension of coverage of our state's rent stabilization statutes and prohibiting the use of price fixing software to inflate rents.

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, housing stabilization services for renters and homeowners, and preservation of existing affordable housing. SB 722 would support housing stabilization in the following ways:

- **Reduce the exemption period from 15 to 7 years** for new construction from statewide rent stabilization requirements. This change would provide greater protections for households across the state and strikes a balance between continuing to encourage new development and ensuring those units do not contribute to long term gentrification and price inflation.
- **Prohibit the use of price fixing software** to inflate rents. These products are a subject of national concern and Oregon has joined a federal lawsuit concerning their use. Oregonians should not have to navigate a rental market plagued by anti-competitive behavior that may increase rents and exacerbate the statewide housing shortage.

PHB urges your support of SB 722.

Sincerely,

Helmi Hisserich, Director