

Submitter: Bobbee Murr

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB722

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

I am writing to you today in support of SB 722. Oregon Renters deserve stable rental prices, free from unfair annual rent increases and price-fixing tools.

This bill would improve our state's rent stabilization statutes and prohibit the use of price-fixing software to inflate rents. This is a no-cost policy tool to help address our unfolding housing affordability crisis.

Too many Oregonians already struggle to find affordable housing before the additional burden of annual rent increases that far outpace average wage increases. SB 722 would help to stabilize rental prices and help Oregonians to maintain affordable housing and ensure that AI algorithms are not used to further burden Oregon renters.

For most of the 25 years I've rented my dwelling, the building owner has annually increased rent. For the last few years, my monthly rent has been more than my monthly Social Security benefit amount, my sole income. I have credit card debt incurred exclusively to pay this difference to avoid being kicked out to the street. I am in my 70s, with major health issues that prevent me from working for a paycheck again (if anyone would hire me).

We must continue to address the needs of those most impacted by our housing crisis.

I urge you to pass SB 722 to ensure that Oregonians are protected from unfair rental increases and price-fixing tools.

Sincerely,
Bobbee Murr
Portland, OR