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## A STRONG VOICE FOR OREGON'S WORKERS

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To: Chair Pham, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development

FR: Tan Perkins, Oregon AFL-CIO

RE: Support HB 3194

Date: 02/27/2025

My name is Tan Perkins with the Oregon AFL-CIO, we represent over 300,000 workers and their families and strive to be a voice for all workers in the legislative process. I am writing in strong support of SB 722, and in opposition to the Dash 1 Amendments.

Receiving a drastic rent increase can be one of the most stressful situations for anyone - when the place you live quickly becomes unaffordable there are often few options. Moreover, you must be in a position to research, finance and coordinate a move if you are priced out. All of these things lead to high stress and a cycle of instability.

Oregon renters are the 6<sup>th</sup> most cost burdened in the nation, and our eviction crisis is growing with more than 27,000 cases filed last year. **88% of evictions are because tenants cannot afford Oregon's high rents.**

Meaning, that no matter how much new construction we build we are left with expensive, uninhabitable buildings.

This proposed change strikes a balance between continuing to encourage new units to come into the market and ensuring that those units do not contribute to long-term gentrification and price inflation.

SB 722 is needed to protect housing stability over corporate profits, and to prevent further escalation of the homelessness crisis. Workers are counting on all of us to do bold measures to help relieve high costs in our state. We can show Oregonians that we are listening to their needs by passing legislation that actually helps now.

For all of these reasons, we urge your strong support of this bill and oppose the -1 amendment.

Sincerely,



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Tan Perkins, Oregon AFL-CIO