



23 March 2020

Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem OR 97301

Re: Accountability to mitigate COVID-19 Impacts on Renters and Housing Providers

Dear Members of the Committee:

Like yourselves, as an active member in the community, a landlord and property manager for several multi-family and commercial buildings around the state and abroad, I want to do as much as possible to assist tenants and their families during and after the strain imposed on all of us by the COVID-19 outbreak. The majority of tenants I serve are on fixed incomes or double incomes. These incomes are very, very small. As a landlord, I recognize this dilemma. You, in turn, should realize that profit margins in this business are already thin because of it.

Any subsidies provided for tenant relief must be equitable and transparent. Direct subsidies to tenants for housing would be nice, but how do you determine who gets money and how do you track the manner in which it is used?

Our community is already offering very limited amounts first-come-first-served grants to food service businesses. In my opinion, the most egregious outcome would be if “first-comers” turn out to be the friends and family members of the governing bodies who set up and distribute financial aid.

Sincerely yours,

John Bildsoe
Project Manager