

I want to thank Representative Gorsek, Piluso, Power and Hernandez for introducing this important bill.

As a landlord, I'm very frustrated by the pushback that this commonsense, very fair bill has seen from various real-estate interest groups, and I want to voice my opposition to their narrative of "representing the landlord class." They do not.

So, without pretending to speak for other landlords, I want to point out a basic fact: to evict a tenant is in the end a business decision for the landlord. A tenant can never approach that decision under those terms, the power is completely asymmetrical in the relationship, and only the tenant is deserving of protection.

Not owning the housing you have to have to be a functioning member of society puts you in an inherently vulnerable position. The landlord is not in this vulnerable position and has no right to exploit it for personal financial gain. Landlords who claim that they themselves are vulnerable to the fluctuations in the financial markets need to acknowledge that what they have at stake are their investments, not their physical person and property.

This, alone, should rank their interests lower than those of the tenants.

Giving tenants sufficient notice, and helping defray moving expenses does not in any way qualify as a great burden for the landlord. It is however a great burden for the tenant to be forced out on short notice. The testimony already given by tenants should have made this point crystal clear.

Thank you for your time,
Emily von W. Gilbert, Portland