

Hello. I am writing to show my support for House Bill 2001.

I was born in Portland, Oregon in 1981. I have a master's degree. My parents live here. Portland is my home like no place else could be. Yet, if rents continue to rise, I fear I may one day have to move out of Portland.

If I, a privileged and educated white woman with no children to support, fear that I may one day have to move from my hometown due to rent costs, I can only imagine how many people with less privilege or more financial responsibilities will be (and already have been) displaced. If we don't do something about the rent increases, the gap in wealth will become more pronounced. Do we want Portland to become a welcoming place only for the wealthy and the homeless? Do we want to create a situation where working class families have to struggle just to keep a roof over their heads? I know that that's not the Portland I want.

Rent control protects the public. It allows citizens to meet their need for stability and security. I do not want to have to move away from my family and hometown because landlords want to make a profit. I do not want Portland to be welcoming to only the rich transplants and the out of town investors. I do not want to live under a constant cloud of worry about whether, every time my lease is up, for renewal, my stability might be threatened.

I've always been proud to come from a city that is seen as so "livable." Portland has long been touted as a "livable" city. For Portland to continue to be a livable city, we must repeal the prohibition on rent control and put a cap on rent increases.

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