

I am writing to express my support in overturning the ban on rent control in the state of Oregon.

Landlords will tell you it is not the answer. None of the interventions that government can (and should) make to protect renters will be good enough for those who own property. Indeed, any intervention on the part of government into their industry will be lambasted as inefficient, causing more harm than good, etc. These reasons are all mystifications of the fundamental issue: these regulations, in assisting people in need, negatively impact the bottom line of property management companies and landlords. They are not arguing from a position of sound public policy, but are lobbying on behalf of their bank accounts. If the ban on rent control is overturned, they will not lose their jobs. They will not be put out on the street. They simply will need to trim fat in their budgets. If you believe their budgets to already be lean, you need look no further than the amount of money they have put towards lobbying the state legislature and the city of Portland to push their agenda. If they are truly so strapped for cash that they cannot bear even the possibility of rent control, how then are they able to put so much money into lobbying the legislature?

On the other side of this issue, you have displaced individuals, members of local communities, and policy makers in local jurisdictions that simply need a new tool in their hand to deal with the housing crisis that is upon not just Portland, not just Oregon, but the entirety of the West Coast of the United States. Overturning the ban on rent control is not implementing rent control. The state legislature has an obligation to give local communities and the markets in which they exist *every tool possible* to deal with this crisis.

I have no doubt that you will hear more from landlords and management companies than you will from renters. Renters work for a living. They don't have large sums of money to pay to PACs to lobby on their behalf. They spend their days engaged in economic activity, rather than interfacing with legislators. But the very loud voices you will hear are those who are freed from labor to the point that they may compose multiple emails, make multiple phone calls a day, lobby their representative, and donate large sums to PACs to make their voices heard. But honest folk work for a living, and don't have these luxuries. Most would be reprimanded or fired from their place of work if they took the time to write a missive of this length. **Don't be fooled by the loudest voices!** They do not speak for the majority of Oregonians. They speak only for their bank accounts.

I thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nick Bradish