

Dear Committee Members,

I'm urging you to please support HB 2004 to protect Oregon tenants and the small businesses who employ them. I have owned a small coffee roasting business in the state for the past nine years. My employees are the backbone of our enterprise, full stop. I would not have what I have without them, so it pains me to see them have to move year in and year out, forced further and further out of town by the relentless rent increases and the unconscionable practices of people treating people's homes as investment vehicles first and foremost.

I urge you to remember that this is an economic issue, not only for renters, but for everyone in the community. We all pay higher prices for everything because renters have no protections from no cause evictions in this state. I have had to raise my prices several times in order to increase wages just so my employees can afford to continue living in Portland--and being well-acquainted with small business owners throughout the state, I know that this is not a Portland-specific problem.

Also, as a small business owner, and one in an industry that has its share of regulations, I take exception to landlord arguments that they should be able to do whatever they please with their properties. Can we imagine what would happen if any other industry felt completely at ease saying such a thing? Would any of us trust eating at a restaurant if we knew that the owners didn't feel compelled to follow sanitation guidelines, or if failed inspections carried no penalty? This is the reality for the housing industry today.

For these reasons, and simply because it is the right thing to do, I urge you all to please support HB 2004.

Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Andrea Pastor

Owner, Cellar Door Coffee Roasters