

Hello,

My name is Jacob Henceroth. I am a resident and renter living in Portland, and wanted to send a quick e-mail in support of HB 2004. This issue is important to me because even though I work a full-time, salaried job, I can barely afford to pay my rent and feed myself.

Thanks to skyrocketing rent increases in the past few years, I have been forced into a situation in which I am paying well above 30% of my monthly income (I don't know the exact number, but I'd estimate it's at around 60%) on rent and cannot afford to move to a cheaper place because I cannot afford to save the money required to pay for moving expenses. Essentially, I am trapped in a situation that is increasingly resembling watching a car crash in slow motion. I know there will be a tipping point after which I will likely be homeless, despite having a salaried job, because the rental market has become unsustainable for the majority of people in this system. It is terrifying, humiliating, and inhumane.

Finally, please remember that renters make up the majority of voters in the city of Portland (I do not know what the statewide statistics, but I cannot imagine that they are dissimilar) and if the legislature does not help us, there will be electoral consequences. This is not meant in a mean-spirited way, but simply fact. So many of us know that we cannot live like this much longer and that the tipping point is slowly but surely approaching. We do not have time and we need that emergency to be felt by those who have the power and ability to do something.

Please help us.

-Jacob Henceroth