



A Better Oregon urges a no vote on SB 794.

A Better Oregon is a coalition demanding adequate funding for schools, health care, care for seniors, and other critical services that support Oregon families and strengthen Oregon's economy. For too long now, our dead-last corporate taxes have left our classrooms among the most crowded in the nation, thousands of seniors living in poverty, and working families across Oregon without health care.

In today's budget climate, we urge legislators to oppose this tax giveaway to landlords. SB 794 subsidizes higher rents, making housing even less affordable. The tax credits would take money out of the General Fund, at the expense of schools, health care, senior services, child welfare, environment protections, public health, the justice system, and all the other important things that tax dollars pay for.

SB 794 would create a scenario where it would appear the state was simply helping landlords reduce their federal tax bills. If a landlord were to make a donation to the fund set up by SB 794, they would get a state tax credit and potentially a federal tax deduction. But those same landlords could also get money from the fund to cover higher rents. The contributions and the payouts could cancel out, leaving only the federal tax deduction meaning landlords win while we really make no dent in our housing crisis.

If the Legislature is going to invest in rent assistance, there are better options. The Emergency Housing Account, State Homeless Assistance Program, Low Income Rental Housing Fund, Housing Choice Landlord Guarantee Fund, and Elderly Rental Assistance housing stabilization programs are all due to be cut if Oregon can't raise more revenues. Legislators should protect funding for those programs, not give away millions of dollars to big property management companies.

Please Vote No on SB 794.