

March 23, 2020

Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response

State of Oregon

Dear Members:

We are in a crisis. I applaud your efforts to provide relief in these unprecedented times. And I support your efforts to provide relief to the people in our state that are being effected the harshest. In that vein I ask you to support direct rent assistance payments to Landlords for the following reasons.

- Disaster relief needs to be for both tenants and landlords to ensure that renters retain their housing and landlords can continue to operate. Direct payments to landlords will keep the supply chain functioning, including mortgages, insurance, maintenance, etc. This isn't just about making sure that landlords get their money. I'm 74 years old and I rely on the rent from the few rental units I own for my income. I need that income to buy groceries, pay the doctor, pay for drugs, and pay the taxes.
- Rental properties require maintenance. A significant portion of the rent I receive each month is used to pay for the exterior and interior maintenance of the property. I hire people to maintain the yards, clean the gutters, repair the roofs, and paint the siding. This helps keep those folks employed and the whole economy working.
- A moratorium on mortgage payments provides some relief for some folks, but not for me.
- Moratorium on evictions. Consider that a significant number of evictions are for actions that are unrelated to paying rent. These include domestic violence, destroying property, and disturbing the peace. There are a lot of evictions that need to move forward for safety reasons. I would hope you distinguish between types of evictions before a blanket moratorium on evictions is put in place.

I've worked hard and saved and invested for 50 years. I'm not rich or wealthy, just an average person trying to survive this crisis. I'm a veteran and I served my country. I would like to think that my country won't forget me in this crisis.

Sincerely,

Peter Murray

Redmond, Oregon