

Dear Senator Burdick and Members of the Coronavirus Response Committee,

My name is Adrienne Hill. My husband David, a Portland native, and I have provided residential rental housing to Portlanders for over 30 years. We are a small, mom and pop business with @80 units in neighborhoods like Goose Hollow, Ladd's Addition and Buckman. More often than not, we are the low cost housing provider in the neighborhood, providing safe, clean, no frills housing to students, minimum wage workers and those with disabilities or fixed incomes.

We understand that like all of us, our tenants sometimes face life events that are outside of their control, and need help from time to time. We have always tried to work with our folks to help them through the rough spots and keep them in their housing. Our tenants are our friends and neighbors, and regardless of their background or income, we have always treated them as we ourselves wish to be treated - with kindness and respect.

Because so many of our renters are hourly workers or students, the Coronavirus outbreak places many of our folks in very tough financial positions. Already, we have received calls or texts from several tenants saying that they just can not pay rent for March, much less April. Among those are hourly service workers who will not qualify for unemployment, including single parents and their kids. And yet as owners, we still have bills coming due: mortgages, property taxes, water bills and other utilities, even PDX fire inspection charges and city fees.

My husband and I recognize that we are very fortunate to have a cushion, including housing security, during this crisis and we are committed to helping our tenants weather this the best we can. At the same time, our small business will face real losses and financial difficulties if we or our tenants do not receive some rental payment support from our government. We would also appreciate the option to defer mortgage payments to lenders, with whom we are currently working to restructure our loans at lower cost. You could help encourage our lenders to make those options more readily available over the coming days and weeks.

Our long-term concern is simple: without appropriate and needed support for ourselves and our tenants today, tomorrow we may have no choice but to sell our properties to corporate interests who have no real ties to Portland, our neighborhoods or our neighbors. While we understand the need for the eviction moratorium, it will place a huge burden on our business. Please help us as local landlords continue to support our tenants and remain a viable, homegrown business through this crisis.

Thank you very much for your time and support,
Adrienne Hill
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Portland, OR