

AFFILIATE OFFICES:

ALASKA
CALIFORNIA
WASHINGTON

Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response
900 NE Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 23, 2020

Dear Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Joint Committee on Coronavirus Response:

The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly touched every Oregonian in an unprecedented and injurious manner. In the last few days, relief has been extended to tenants, with a moratorium placed on residential evictions based on the nonpayment of rent because of wage loss attributed to COVID-19.

However, this moratorium only offers relief to tenants, largely disregarding the continuous expenses incurred by property owners, including payroll for employees, utilities, City and County fees and charges including property taxes, income taxes, and transit district charges. The income to pay these expenses comes only from rental payments by tenants.

On behalf of the Oregon Park Owner's Alliance, which serves 6,500 spaces across 63 communities throughout Oregon, we seek relief to ensure that our communities can continue serving Oregonians across the state now and well into the future.

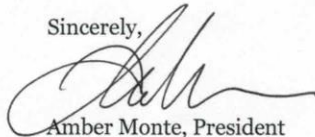
Our support for relief is rooted in the following reasons:

1. Rental payments are the source of income to pay our employees, who rely on this income to pay for their own living expenses. Providing relief to our employees would not only ensure that they receive the help they need, but it would also infuse our local economies with much needed funds.
2. Relief would ensure our properties could continue to be maintained, safeguarding the safety and stability of our communities and organization.
3. Our communities predominantly serve low-income Oregonians; yet we still support the implementation of a needs test that would establish those in verifiable need of rental payment relief in light of COVID-19 related income loss. This would help ensure equitable distribution of relief to Oregonians and the continued functioning of our parks across the state.

We would implore the state and local jurisdictions to utilize the funding that is directed for affordable housing in order to stabilize both tenants and property owners throughout this unprecedented time.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,



Amber Monte, President