

To whom it may concern,

I write to offer my testimony on Oregon's response to the covid-19 crisis.

It is clear that the greater crisis than the disease is the economic crisis precipitated by the necessary closures. In order to weather this crisis, the population of the state of Oregon needs rent relief, preferably rent forgiveness and eviction bans for the time being. In order to not unfairly burden landlords, we also need mortgage and property tax relief for the time being.

Simply put, until people are able to work without fearing for their health, we cannot expect them to continue to pay rent. Until people can pay rent, we counted expect landlords to continue to pay their mortgages and property taxes. To continue to expect any of this is to invite calamity, either in the form of increased disease or in the form of increased economic hardship. It doesn't have to be this way, and the Legislature holds the keys to ameliorating this.

Sincerely,
Michael Smith
HD46