

Date: June 21, 2020

To: BOMA Board of Directors; BOMA Government Affairs Committee

From: Henry Hornecker. 503-686-5152. (he/him/his)

Re: Problematic extension on the moratorium on evictions

Good afternoon, I would like to voice my concern regarding The Senate draft of LC 45 (the omnibus COVID bill). While I understand the idea in drafting this extension, I do not believe it is truly the best way to support those in need. Rather than an automatic extension of the moratorium, I believe it would be more beneficial for each specific request/case to be looked at individually upon request. This would allow those effected to receive a structured plan rather than being tossed under a blanket extension.

Setting guidelines on who is able to qualify for such an extension will also verify that there is no opportunity for the program to be taken advantage of or have valuable time and resources taken away from those who are truly in need. I propose an opportunity for extension for those who not only apply, but demonstrate their need based on their financials. I would also argue for a time frame to be set for this relief plan in order to encourage people to make their application a top priority. By leaving an open window of time for relief, we send the message that this is not a pressing matter and can consequentially allow people in need to fall deeper into holes that they will never be able to climb out of.

Lastly, I believe that by creating a guideline for access to such relief we will in turn take a much-needed step forward in returning to a more normal state of affairs. If we continue to allow anyone and everyone to delay paying rent, we are essentially claiming that we believe the worst is yet to come. This false sense of fear could lead to even more problems for the people we are trying to protect and demonstrates a lack of faith in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Henry Hornecker