



DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

June 22, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony about **the need to extend the eviction moratorium and enact a repayment period**. We know that the impacts of COVID -19 disproportionately affect those with low incomes. Many Oregon families and individuals have lost income due to the pandemic. Please extend the eviction moratorium so more people have a chance to get back to work, to access rent assistance, and prevent a wave of needless evictions.

DevNW is a nonprofit that was created in 2019 when Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO) and Willamette Neighborhood Housing Services (WNHS) united to expand their impact, bring people together, and better help our communities thrive in the long term. Together, our two organizations have 60 years of experience. Each year, DevNW serves more than 5,000 individuals and families across our program areas. DevNW owns 411 units of affordable rental housing in Lane, Linn and Benton Counties.

Oregon is in an unprecedented housing crisis, with high unemployment due to COVID 19 and stagnant wages; 49.5% of renters spend more than 30% of their gross monthly income on rent and utilities, making Oregon the 37<sup>th</sup> least affordable state for renters. As elected officials, you are well aware of the challenges faced by many in Oregon who lack affordable housing and have been deeply impacted by COVID- 19. We need your help, please extend the eviction moratorium and enact a repayment period. Thank you for your service and your commitment to housing for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Olson".

Brigetta Olson, COO

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