

Greetings members of the Committee,

My name is Benjamin Bryant and I live in Portland, Oregon. I'm reaching out to you before the June 24th Emergency Session to implore that you extend Oregon's Eviction Moratorium and work to create a plan to address the accumulated backrent that will become an insurmountable burden for many Oregonians, putting them at risk of homelessness in July.

During the COVID crisis, an enormous amount of renters in Oregon have lost their income and faced extraordinary hardship. Many of these renters have not been able to access rental assistance in the time allotted for them. The lifting of the Governor's Eviction Moratorium could put thousands of working families at risk of losing their home.

As a service industry employee, I know that my job may not return due to state mandated reductions in restaurant capacity and the threat of reoccurring outbreaks. Without the protection of the Eviction Moratorium, I know that my housing could be in jeopardy due to the lack of employment opportunities caused by this crisis and the government's response to it. Please consider that my story is the same as thousands in and outside of my industry whose livelihoods have been directly impacted by this crisis and fear for the future of their housing.

During the special session on June 24th, stand with me and my neighbors in calling for an extension of the moratorium. We need stronger protections from the threat of eviction due to COVID. Nobody should lose their homes during this crisis.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Bryant