

February 1, 2019

Chair Shemia Fagan  
Senate Housing Committee  
900 Court St. NE, S-409  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Fagan,

I write you today to relay to you the struggle for affordable housing, in particular, the struggle that tenants are experiencing in my neighborhood.

The three properties that neighbor my home, (I share a property line with two), have all been purchased in the last five years by investors now renting the homes out. The rents prices are shocking in expense and the residents struggle to remain long-term.

Our skyrocketing housing and rent prices have turned finding shelter into an incredible challenge that is often unaffordable. In the past month, I have seen two of my renting neighboring residents essentially forced to pack up and move.

Senate Bill 608, the 2019 Tenant Protection Bill will set some basic standards for landlords to adhere to in order to provide some stability in this nearly unfettered environment where shelter is used as an investment to leverage great profit by people with capital.

I have the privilege to serve my community as chair of the City of Talent Planning Commission. I have a front-row seat for the struggles that tenants are experiencing. The City has a limited ability to aid tenants. I hope that all Senators will come together to pass Senate Bill 608 to alleviate some of the unreasonable hardships that these tenants currently face. We cannot do it without you.

Sincerely,

Derek Volkart  
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