



Dear Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, Members of the Committee,

The Street Trust urges strong support of SB 608, to provide critical protection against unjust eviction and displacement for the 40% of Oregon households who rent their homes.

The Street Trust is a non-profit membership organization working to promote and improve public transit, walking and bicycling conditions in Oregon. Our membership represents over 14,000 Oregonians dedicated to create communities where people can meet their daily transportation needs through active transportation.

Oregon is in the middle of a statewide housing crisis. In both urban and rural areas, renters face the threat of no-cause eviction and extreme rent increases at any time. Renters forced to leave their homes for no fault of their own often face the very real threat of homelessness. Everyday, we see how this crisis impacts renters.

Housing stability and access to transit go hand-in-hand. Everyone should be able to live in a community that encourages easy access to walking, biking and transit, and we want all renters to be able to afford a place to live in those communities. Housing instability is a significant contributor to decreased access to transit - as people are unfairly priced out of their homes that are near transit and walkable neighborhoods, they must move far away from the places they work and play, increasing the number of cars on the road and therefore increasing congestion.

Today you have the opportunity to help people feel a little more secure in their homes. SB 608 has two critical components, both of which are essential to easing the housing crises on the most vulnerable:

1. It ends the unjust use of no-cause evictions, ensuring that tenants who follow the rules are not ripped from their homes unfairly.
2. It will curb the economic evictions happening throughout the state and help stabilize rents so that tenants can have some modicum of economic stability.

Oregon's housing crises is going to require dozens of solutions, but protecting Oregonians who rent their homes from sudden displacement is one of the most critical. Oregon communities are stronger when everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home. We must act now to ensure the bright future of our state.

People who rent their homes are depending on the Legislature to act to provide basic protections and stability. Please vote "yes" on SB 608.

Thank you for all your hard work to make Oregon a more safe and livable place for all.

Sincerely,

Richa Poudyal, Advocacy Director

The Street Trust