

**From:**  
**To:** [Exhibits SHOUS](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen Golden](#)  
**Subject:** SB608 will relieve anxiety renters in small towns face. Please vote Yes.  
**Date:** Monday, February 4, 2019 9:09:41 AM

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

I am a City Councillor for Talent, writing in support of Senate Bill 608.

We know that Oregon has a housing crisis and that renters are hit particularly hard.

In Talent, with a population of less than 7,000 people, almost 40 percent of households are rentals. According to our Housing Needs Analysis of 2017, 56 percent of renters are cost burdened.

We see this as an economics problem, and that's true.

But on top of the challenges of having to make ends meet, families who rent are living in a constant state of unnecessary anxiety.

Even if they do everything right, any day they might be forced out, either by a shocking rent increase or a no-cause eviction. Renters in small towns like Talent are especially vulnerable, where housing options are fewer.

As one renter told me couple of days ago: "It's an uphill battle every day. And it's making people angry."

It was less than a year ago when I stood with tenants at Mariposa Apartments in Medford, protesting a rent increase of 40 percent. The property owner called it a "business decision."

Well, business decisions have consequences.

Until now, these consequences have been borne by everyone but the property owners: the tenants and their families; employers whose workers are trying to scout out a new place to live rather than focusing on their job; the schools where the kids are arriving late and tired, because they're sleeping at a relative's house, or even in the family car; communities where residents don't know each other because neighborhoods are in constant flux.

This bill won't solve the housing crisis. But it will help bring some peace of mind and stability to people in my city, and communities all over Oregon.

I urge you to pass this long overdue legislation.

Thank you for your hard work.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Ponomareff  
Councillor, Position 5  
City of Talent