

From: [Chuck Sprague](#)
To: [Exhibits SHDEV](#)
Subject: Written testimony for SB 1533
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2020 2:41:00 PM

Dear Sir/Madam:

This is my written testimony opposing SB 1533.

I am against this bill because providing free legal aid to tenants will simply put me out of business. I own an RV Park, in a rural area with many poor people, and a high incidence of homelessness and substance abuse.

Most of my tenants are long-term. I do my best to provide a clean, safe place for my tenants to live. Homelessness is a real problem in the Coos Bay/North Bend area. Many of my tenants are low income people who cannot qualify for apartments or houses. I work with local organizations that are trying to provide help to homeless people and families, to get them off the streets and into affordable housing. I provide an essential, and much needed service in our area.

I currently spend a great deal of time in court on evictions, fighting spurious accusations to draw out the eviction process. While I have always prevailed in court, the cost to me is great in both time and money, lost rents, property damage and time in court for which I'm not compensated. New landlord laws that were passed last year, and still more that have kicked in the beginning of this year, have put increased legal burdens on us that we are still struggling to adapt to and comply with.

I do not have unlimited funds to fight every eviction court case. If you pass SB 1533, pushing free legal aid beyond what it already is, my business and many others like it, will not likely survive. This will further decrease available affordable housing at a time when it is most desperately needed.

Many landlords are dumping their properties and getting out of the business, in response to recent legal changes. The remaining landlords are finding themselves under increasing burdens.

Landlords also need the help and support of government to provide much needed housing. Our tenant/landlord system needs to be balanced. The Oregon Law Center already receives the majority of their funding thru court filing fees, that landlords pay for thru FED's and Small Claims.

Please do not pass Senate Bill 1533. The very future existence of my business may depend on your decision.

Sincerely,

Charles Sprague
Kelley's RV Park

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