



DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

June 24, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Courtney, Kotek and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the need to extend the eviction moratorium and enact a six-month repayment period. We know that the impacts of COVID -19 disproportionately affect those with low incomes and communities of color. Please extend the eviction moratorium, so more people have a chance to get back to work, to access rent assistance, and to receive their unemployment benefits. By extending the moratorium, you will prevent a wave of needless evictions.

DevNW is a nonprofit community development corporation serving seven counties in Oregon. Each year, it serves more than 5,000 individuals and families across their program areas. DevNW currently owns 411 units of affordable rental housing in Lane, Linn, and Benton Counties, and every night houses over 1,200 individuals.

It is only fair that everyone has a safe, decent place to live. Households across Oregon are having to make hard choices, such as putting food on the table versus paying rent. Unless the Oregon Legislature takes action today, Oregonians will face an avalanche of evictions due to non-payment of rent. Before the pandemic, Oregon was already the 37th least affordable state for renters. We are now in an unprecedented housing crisis, with high unemployment due to COVID 19.

As elected officials, you are well aware of the challenges faced by many in Oregon who have been deeply impacted by COVID- 19 due to job loss. We need your help. **Please support the extension of the eviction moratorium, and include a six-month repayment period.**

Thank you for your service and your commitment to housing for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Olson".

Brigetta Olson, COO

devNW.org



212 Main Street
Springfield, OR 97477

257 SW Madison Avenue #200
Corvallis, OR 97333

437 Union Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

421 High Street, Suite 110
Oregon City, OR 97045