



Everyone deserves a place to call home.

December 17, 2020

Speaker Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
President Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Vice Chair
Representative Christine Drazan, Co-Vice Chair
Third Special Session of 2020; House & Senate Joint Committee
Sent via: j3ss.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov.

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members of the committee:

I am writing on behalf of REACH Community Development, a non-profit that has created and sustained over 2,400 affordable rental homes in the Portland metro region. **We urge passage of LC 18 to extend the eviction moratorium and create a relief fund to alleviate the financial distress of both tenants and property owners/managers.**

Our country has so far failed to provide adequate economic relief. Both renters and landlords are absorbing the pain of this national failure. It is critical that we extend eviction moratoria at the State level and escalate advocacy to the federal government for bolder action from the incoming U.S. Congress & Biden Administration.

At REACH, over 25% of households are behind on rent, totaling over \$1.2 million in back rent. And we are also learning of more and more households assuming high interest debt to pay basic living expenses. We have applied for emergency relief funding and connected people to resources in the community, but we are far short of the resources needed by residents.

We counsel strongly against any provisions that would require residents to prove their need via documentation or to allow only partial relief. We find that the vast majority of residents desperately want to meet their rent obligations monthly. Those who are unable to pay rent are truly in financial distress due to the impact of COVID. Any artificial limits or documentation requirements will only extend the damage and leave residents in unstable housing situations.

REACH will maintain our own internal eviction moratorium as long as economically possible, while advocating for more state and federal relief. And we need all owners to do the same. The crisis among households living in rental housing is continuing to grow, please take action now before end of 2020.

Thank you for leading at this crucial moment.

Sincerely,

Dan Valliere
CEO, REACH Community Development