

Subject: Fwd: Rental assistance is urgent matte

Good morning. I am writing to urge you to amend or modify some of the proposed procedures for rental assistance and eviction procedures. It is urgent that the state of Oregon act NOW, not wait until the winter session as eviction protections expire December 31, 2020. I support Reimage Oregon proposals and would like to see the process as simple as possible and not create a lot more paper work for either landlords or renters.

Specifically, I suggest the following:

Landlords who receive rental assistance must try to keep their renters and not make evictions easy. They should negotiate a payment plan for a year's duration. We all know that even with a vaccine, this next year is not going to see a rapid return to the economy. People whether they are landlords, especially landlords with small number of units, or renters should not be penalized during this hard economic period. I myself along with my sister own a duplex which is my primary residence. Fortunately, our tenants are able to pay the rent but we stand ready to work with them if their circumstances change.

Landlords should be responsible to communicate directly with their tenants the process(es) by which tenants know their rights and if there are forms, that these forms are easily available. One of the problems that I see with tenants who are not legal residents is a fear of completing any form that would give the government, ICE, a link to find and arrest them and then deport them. Communities of color have understandable fear of filling out forms that may give either their landlord or the government access to personal information. It's a matter of trust. Therefore, the state should make it easy to provide rental assistance. And any new laws or processes should be made available in the various languages of Oregon's residents and support to culturally specific organizations to do outreach to make sure that all people know what is happening.

Thank you for listening and hopefully, supporting an improved rental assistance/eviction moratorium.

Yours truly,

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