

To Co-Chairs President Courtney & Speaker Tina Kotek, Co-Vice Chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Drazen, and members of the committee,

Regarding LC 18; extending the eviction moratorium

Thank you for all the work you are doing to help Oregonians make it through this pandemic without becoming homeless. I am the executive director of Community Partners for Affordable Housing, a community housing development organization that serves Washington County and SW Portland.

As a non-profit affordable housing landlord, I can see how much our residents are struggling to pay rent and provide for themselves and their families. We are grateful for the assistance that we have received from the state to help these families. My resident services staff, working closely with our asset manager and property management, have spent many hours working hard to connect residents to this assistance. We know that providing opportunities to stay housed is one of the most important things that we can do right now.

Please extend the eviction moratorium. The pandemic is not ending soon enough and residents are struggling. The thought that Oregon could see thousands of people become homeless when they are no longer able to maintain their housing is chilling. Some people impacted by COVID have not had a history of struggling financially and it is certainly tragic that their housing is no longer secure. Our residents, who started the pandemic already low income are definitely struggling mightily. Of course you know it is much harder and more costly to house people who have lost their housing as opposed to intervening so that people do not become homeless. It is also much more human to keep people housed and avoid the trauma and devastation that homelessness causes.

Finally, this pandemic has disproportionately affected communities of color, both in terms of devastating health impacts as well as economic hardship.

This is the right time to create some real safety for Oregonians so that they can stay housed until it is possible to restart their lives.

Thank you.

Rachael Duke, Executive Director

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Pronouns: she/her

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Community Partners for Affordable Housing cares about our residents, our staff and the community. We continue to take proactive and precautionary measures to guard against contraction and spread of COVID-19. Although there are times that staff will be at the office or at our properties, and following social distancing guidelines, we will generally be working from home and meeting remotely.

Building Housing, Building Lives.