

Eviction moratorium

For the special session.

I'm writing about the recent extension of the eviction moratorium. I realize there is a housing crisis in Portland, and have been reluctant to say anything about my situation as I don't want to hurt those who really need assistance in this pandemic. However, the way the county and State moratoriums have been written also negatively affects people like me. I rent my house in Foster-Powell. I bought it assuming I'd settle there, but then was offered a job in Chicago. So I'm renting my house to cover the mortgage while I see if this new job is a fit. However, my tenants, who are still employed, have not paid rent since March. Not one cent. I've offered rent discounts, early release from the lease, etc through my property manager, and the couple offers we have made went unanswered. The last communication I received said they would start paying in October, but with the additional extension, they decided not to.

This is my one property. I'm not making money off it. But unless I start seeing some relief, I will have to sell, taking yet more housing off the rental market. I have read this is a common predicament for many Portland landlords like me. And again, if my tenants actually needed rental assistance, I would understand. But they don't. My hope in writing is that the city considers this problem more holistically and does more to protect landlords too so that they continue to provide rental housing in the city. And consider ways to minimize abuse so the residents who truly need help are the ones who get it.

Thank you,

Rebecca Wolfe