



Welcome Home Coalition  
P.O. Box 16490  
Portland, OR 97213

### **Act Now to Ensure Oregon's Housing Crisis Does Not Worsen**

Co-Chairs Beyer and Fahey, Vice Chairs Breese Iverson and Knopp, and members of the Committee:

Ensuring each of our neighbors has a stable and affordable place to call home remains one of the most pressing challenges facing our state. Our coalition, which represents nearly 70 organizations across Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties, has worked to meet that challenge by generating new local resources to address our housing crisis. Still, the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic has left thousands of Oregonians across the state on the verge of losing their home.

In the 2021 Legislative Session, lawmakers took important steps to ensure Oregonians would not lose their housing as the state worked to get rent assistance into the community. Due to overwhelming demand, statutory changes are needed to fully realize that goal. The government has promised relief to thousands of households, and we need to ensure that promise is kept.

We urge the passage of:

- New funding for continuing access to rent assistance for tenants with low incomes through the winter months until new federal resources are available, and for the landlord guarantee fund;
- A modification to SB 278's safe harbor period to cover the entire application period, and to extend the sunset on protections. Tenants who have applied for rent assistance should be protected until their application has been considered, and either granted or denied, no matter when they apply;
- An extension of the sunset on the current 10-day notice period for nonpayment evictions (as opposed to 72 hours), coupled with updated notices to tenants about the eviction process and where to find rent assistance. This is a common-sense provision that facilitates access to available resources designed to prevent displacement;
- An expansion and extension of the current 60-day landlord guarantee fund to cover any period of time (not just 60 days) if a landlord delays eviction and a tenant is ultimately

denied assistance or receives less than is owed when the case is closed. This removes risk for the landlord and ensures tenant stability and access to assistance.

Failure to enact these protections will result in thousands of Oregonians losing their homes through no fault of their own. We must act now to prevent the unnecessary and tragic generational harm that comes from eviction and displacement. We urge your support of these critical protections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Mac Innis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tyler Mac Innis, Director