



December 9, 2021

DEVELOPING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Joint Interim Committee on the Second Special Session 2021
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chairs, Co-Vice Chairs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Karen Saxe and I work for DevNW, an affordable housing and counseling agency serving Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Marion, Polk and Clackamas Counties. I am writing today to urge you to extend eviction protections by: expanding and extending the current 60-day landlord guarantee, extending the sunset on the 10-day notice period for nonpayment evictions, modifying SB 278's safe harbor period, and providing new funding for rent assistance for families across Oregon.

We know renters are struggling, they are making the hard choice to pay their rent or put food on the table. We've heard from renters across our service area who have applied for rent assistance but are still awaiting funding. No one should be evicted for nonpayment while their rent assistance application is being processed.

We applaud the work done during the 2021 session to pass SB 278, providing much needed protections for renters. But, the reality is that many of those same families continue to struggle. We know that over 7,900 low-income households have applied for assistance but continue to wait for it to materialize, passing the safe harbor period outlined in SB 278. These families need your support.

The impacts of the ongoing pandemic are being felt disproportionately by low-income households and households of color. We urge your action to support renters throughout Oregon. Increasing funding for rent assistance and extending safe harbor and notice periods are steps we can take as this pandemic and economic crisis continues to be felt by families in all corners of the state. Thank you for your time and for all of your work on behalf of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KSaxe".

Karen Saxe

Chief Program Officer

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