

Greetings Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Fahey, Co-Vice Chair Knopp, Co-Vice Chair Wallan and Members of the Committee,

**Thank you for convening this special session to discuss the urgent issue of tenant protections for Oregonians and taking immediate action to ensure that Oregon's statewide housing crisis does not get worse.**

**We are writing in strong support of the LC 9 the rent assistance safe harbor extension bill.** After the passage of SB 278 during the 2021 session, the Rogue Action Center was proud of our legislature for supporting individuals and families who faced eviction while waiting for state and federal rent assistance to get to their landlords. However, with an overwhelming demand for assistance, statutory changes are necessary to implement the intended goal of SB 278. **The Government has promised relief to thousands of households, and we need to ensure that promise is kept.**

The past two years have been challenging for Oregonians at large and too many renters across the state have experienced the threat of eviction and houselessness. More than 7,900 low-income households who have applied for assistance to maintain their housing stability during the financial crisis of the pandemic have been waiting so long, their safe harbor expired. Nearly 2,300 nonpayment evictions have been filed in Oregon courts since the passage of SB 278. Many of these evictions will push these households into homelessness which often begins a cycle of harm and trauma for impacted individuals and families.

Here in Southern Oregon, our community has endured the layered impacts of financial stress from the pandemic and devastation from the 2020 Almeda and Obenchain Wildfires. Many households already suffering from financial losses during the pandemic have been left desperate after the fires and with nowhere to turn for reliable support. In Southern Oregon, as in cities and towns across the state, both the impacts of the pandemic and losses from the fires have disproportionately impacted Black, Indigenous and communities of color as well as elders, disabled folks and working class families.

**On behalf of the community we serve in Jackson and Josephine Counties, we stand in support of modifying SB 278's safe harbor period to cover the entire application period.**

Tenants who have applied for assistance should be protected until their application has been considered and either granted or denied. We support extending the sunset on the current 10-day notice period for nonpayment evictions and mandating that tenants receive up to date information about their eviction as well as information about where to find rental assistance. These provisions are necessary to ensure that tenants have access to available resources designed to prevent displacement.

**Oregon residents need your support during this time of instability and housing crisis. We are calling on the legislature to act now to address the immediate needs of your constituents and ensure that no one is evicted for nonpayment while their rent assistance application is being processed.**

Sincerely,  
Dana Greenblatt  
Policy Advocate at the Rogue Action Center

205 N. Phoenix Rd, Phoenix OR  
[info@rogueactioncenter.org](mailto:info@rogueactioncenter.org)