

Co-Chair's Beyer, Fahey, Vice-Chairs Knopp, Wallan and Members of the Committee thank you for this opportunity to share my experiences with you today.

My name is Bryan Blumklotz and I live in House District 43/Senate District 22 (as does my entire family). I speak on behalf of a local family business, Blumklotz Family Investments LCC (the current incarnation), that has provided housing since the mid-70s. We are responsible for 3 buildings with 28 units and house 28 souls in Portland proper. Aside from supporting my family we also have 1 full time employee.

Even before COVID we were feeling pinched by policies by the State and the City of Portland. When the pandemic began it has only gotten worse. At the beginning of COVID we rescinded all the rent raises we had in the pipeline because it was the right thing to do, not because we had to. We worked with our tenants that were struggling.

We weathered the moratorium put in place by the State (and made more onerous and confusing to our tenants and ourselves by Multnomah County and the City of Portland). Even when these policies prevented us from communicating with our residents.

We started to see daylight with the flood of Federal rental assistance and the end of the moratorium. The past year had been unnecessarily difficult but we (my family and our residents) were hopeful.

Then we watched as OHCS dropped ball after ball and blew past deadline after deadline. It would be comical if the results were not so painful. The complete mismanagement of that agency by Director Margaret Solle Salazar and the lack of accountability for it by the State has further eroded our confidence in your ability to address the continuing problems of housing in the age of COVID.

Now you want to bring back the moratorium and place the economic burden, that OHCS and your body created, back upon all of us. You want to extend the uncertainty for providers and residents alike.

How does a moratorium bring accountability to an agency that is failing to meet benchmarks that other states much larger than us have done with less drama?

How does this speed up the process of getting desperately needed rental assistance into the hands of providers and residents?

The answer is simply it does not.

You have the administrative tools to address this right now. Use them and do the job we voted you in to do.

Thank you for your time and I am available to answer any questions you might have.

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