



December 10, 2021

RE: Support for LC 9

Dear Co-Chairs Beyer and Fahey and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of legislative action to protect individuals and families from eviction and displacement while ensuring that landlords are made whole.

Landlords and tenants across our state need continued support. Thousands of tenants across Oregon have done their part. They have applied for rent assistance, only to be caught up in stressful uncertainty due to administrative delays. It is not their fault, and they deserve the certainty of housing stability until the government can deliver on its promise. Similarly, landlords have stepped up throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to keep individuals and families housed as best they can. In many cases landlords have effectively provided no-interest loans, risking their largest personal asset and retirement as collateral in service to the public interest. They have been a critical part of the state's response to the pandemic exacerbated housing crisis.

I appreciate that LC 9 is responsive to those issues. Critically, it does the following:

- Modifies SB 278's safe harbor period to apply during the pendency of an application.
- Removes the sunset on the safe harbor provisions.
- Continues the current 10-day (instead of 72-hour) notice period for nonpayment evictions while increasing communications to tenants about the eviction process and where to access rent assistance.
- Extend the current 60-day landlord guarantee fund to cover any period of time if a landlord delays eviction and a tenant is ultimately denied assistance.

I am also pleased that additional funding is being proposed to continue the rent assistance program for low-income tenants through the winter months until new resources are available, and for the landlord guarantee fund.

The Legislature has rightly prioritized keeping individuals and families housed throughout the pandemic and has similarly recognized and responded to the sacrifices that landlords have made throughout the state. We urge continued focus and attention on these important issues.

In Appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Callaway'.

Mayor Steve Callaway