



MAYOR'S OFFICE

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February 1, 2022

Senator Jama, Chair
Senator Anderson, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Housing Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Jama and Vice-Chair Anderson,

I'm writing on behalf of the Salem City Council in enthusiastic support of Senate Bill 1557, which would provide Salem Housing Authority funds to keep the residents stable in their existing rentals and allow for time to transition to other affordable housing. Waitlists are long in our market for affordable housing. The financial support offered residents from SB 1557 would help as an emergency stop gap and serve as a pilot program for other agencies facing similar issues.

On December 31, 2021, the 224-unit Orchard Park housing development in Salem lost its affordable housing status and exited the program, placing residents of the 224 units – including more than 80 voucher clients – at risk of being priced out of their homes.

If passed, SB 1557 would support the residents of buildings whose owners have chosen to allow the restrictions to expire, rather than continuing to maintain properties as affordable housing. SB 1557 provides a small rent assistance subsidy to help the current tenants in those affordable housing units remain in their homes, so they aren't displaced due to increased rents.

The City of Salem is requesting your support for Senate Bill 1557.

Sincerely,

Chuck Bennett
Mayor

cc: Salem Legislative Delegation

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

❖ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility services will be provided upon request ❖
Servicios razonables de alojamiento y accesibilidad se facilitarán por petición