

Submitter: Brian Brigar
On Behalf Of: Tenants
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: SB611

Re: Support for SB 611 B

Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your time, my name is Brian Gardner and I am a tenant living in Beaverton. I have an MBA and a Master's Degree in Urban Studies. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 611 B. My partner and I experienced an unmanageable rent increase last year because of an existing loophole.

We moved into a complex in downtown Beaverton, because the developer had advertised a free month of rent as part of a promotion to move in tenants to a new building. I now know from my studies that their goal was to dilute the property so that it could be sold. Once the newly built complex was full of tenants, it was promptly sold to new ownership, who immediately started charging to use all amenities, removed "free" services - like a coffee bar, and turned off motion detectors that kept common space utilities low - while charging residents for the electricity.

Finally, because the rent cap does not apply to buildings under 15 years old, we received a 25% rent increase upon lease renewal. On fixed incomes, we were forced to leave.

Our family would have been houseless if we had not been able to take part in a project that helps low-income people stay housed. I'm glad we were able to be a part of this program because it puts people first. I can't say the same about our previous landlords.

We heard the term "housing providers" a lot in spoken testimony. Human beings take space to exist, and the people who own the land and rent it out to others aren't providing housing, there's enough room for everyone to be housed. What they are is landlords, left over from a feudal system where it takes money to pay for existence, and those who can't

Thank you for your time and please support this bill SB 611 B.