

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson, Members of the Committee:

My name is Linda Berg. I am 75 years old and live at the Eugene Hotel Retirement Center in Eugene, Oregon. I moved to the Hotel a little over a year ago. After moving to Eugene just over five years ago and having moved three times in less than four years, I decided that I needed to find a living situation where the rent was reasonable and one that I could afford. I moved with the understanding that there would be a reasonable yearly rent increase. I am on a fixed income.

I am writing because the law that was passed in 2019 to set a cap on rents here in Oregon is creating a hardship on certain segments of the population here in Oregon—seniors and low income persons. Shortly after I moved, the Hotel was sold to a private investment group from California. Using the formula set under the current rental law, the most of the residents here at the Hotel had their rents increased to the maximum of 14 percent (my increase is \$200.00 per month!). This excessive increase is creating a hardship on me as well as several of the senior residents who live at the Hotel. I am not opposed to rent increases but \$200.00 per month will be putting an undue burden on the quality of my life.

Besides emerging from the Covid pandemic we are facing a possible recession. Prices are high and it appears that they will not be coming down anytime soon. I am also faced with high drug costs. To me this is a fairness issue as well as an economic one. I strongly urge you to pass SB 611 as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Linda A. Berg