

Submitter: Betty Holladay  
On Behalf Of: Barbara Rose  
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development  
Measure: SB611

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and other members of the Committee:

My name is Barbara Rose. I am writing to support SB 611 and I am advocating for a small amendment to it.

I am 72 years old, a single, retired state employee, and a renter. I live in a small St John's apartment, which is about two years old. I was astonished at how I couldn't find any housing in my price range. Finally, I found this apartment which was near where my daughter and granddaughter live.

Since I am in a newer building and living on a fixed income, I need more stability in my rental costs. I support having the age of buildings moved up so that newer ones like mine can be subject to a rental cap. I recently moved into my apartment, but I am afraid that when the lease is up, I may not be able to afford this place depending upon the amount of the next rent increase. My landlord is a corporate entity who so far is proving to be very unresponsive to my needs. Who knows what will happen next year.

If SB 611 passes and my building becomes subject to the rent cap, I'd like to see a maximum of 5% rent cap imposed. That would be an increase of \$62.00 monthly for me. Even though an 8% rental cap seems small, the fact that my rent increases each year means that the same percentage creates an even larger monthly rent amount for the following year.

As with many seniors, I have increasing medical expenses. I am a cancer patient with rising ongoing medical costs. I have no guarantee that my landlord would set a rent increase lower than the cap, so I'd like to see a reasonable rental cap amount used so they don't drive me out of my home.

I am already anxious because I have no way of knowing what my rent will be next year and if I can afford it. Additionally, my health is making it increasingly difficult for me to move. Normally, I try to be prudent and figure out what I can afford for upcoming rent amounts, but it is just hit and miss in this rental market. I cannot plan for the future the way things are. Please amend SB 611 to lower the rental cap to 5% and pass the bill in its current form.

Thank you for hearing my story.

Barbara Rose  
St. John's, Oregon