

Submitter: Lauren Everett

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Dear Senate Committee On Housing and Development,

In the past nine years since I moved to Portland I have volunteered on and then supervised the Community Alliance of Tenants Renters' Rights Hotline; served on Portland Tenants United's Organizing Committee for the past four years; and earned my master's and doctorate in urban studies at PSU, where my dissertation explored the lived experience of tenants who reside in rent-controlled housing in California. I also testified in Salem in support of SB 608, where I had the opportunity to hear many tenant and landlord testimonies around this issue.

With the combination of the knowledge I have gleaned through these endeavors and my own experiences as a renter my entire adult life, here is what I know: tenants simply cannot continue to survive in Oregon with the current rent increase cap formula. Even the proposed formula is too high, but since it's better than what we currently have I am writing in support of SB 611's passage, without ANY amendments from the landlord/real estate lobby.

We have compromised enough with them and our most vulnerable community members are paying the price. As I'm sure you are aware, they will come to you with many sad stories about how this won't work for them and will force them out of business. Having grown up in Los Angeles and Santa Monica - where rent-controlled housing has much lower increase caps - I can promise that isn't the case. They will say literally anything to maintain their profit margin and expect the taxpayers to subsidize it by investing in affordable housing instead of regulating market housing, in addition to those needed investments.

Sincerely,

Lauren E.M. Everett, PhD

North Portland