

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 611 to stop the insane housing annual increases the State has allowed landlords. I don't understand why the Oregon believes that allowing landlords such a huge annual rent increase to their tenants is a good idea while the state of Oregon is in a state of crisis and homelessness. Each of you in this Committee, on a daily basis, have seen the devastating effects of the rising costs of rents. Just look around and see the tents, the cardboard cut out shelters, and the old Winnebagos that line so many of the streets and highways. It is truly shocking, the result of greediness and I will never get use to it or be one to ignore such things. I was born and raised in Eugene and I am a life long Oregon renter. Too many people like me are at risk for homelessness if you do not pass this commonsense bill, protect renters and limit rate increases, there will be more and more people forced out into the streets. I am on Social Security and work part time and I have lived in my apartment for 20 years. My monthly income barely allows me to pay my current rent every 4 weeks, When I have to consider the greed and exorbitant price of rents, the high price of food, the non stop increase of utilities, prescriptions and other mandatory monthly bills, it causes so much stress, anxiety and the feeling of such hopelessness, because my money can only go

so far. Like many, many other low income individuals, families and senior citizens, I do not have the earning power to pay the rents landlords are demanding anymore. Always over the 30% of my income - which by the way, 30% is still too steep for many of us. The current 14.6% annual increase which Oregon landlords are allowed now is just adding quickly to the homeless population. Doesn't this committee have any true sense of care, compassion and decency to the low income and vulnerable citizens of Oregon? Is this the type of society the state of Oregon wants to create? Where the greed of the land owner is so powerful it just crushes those of us who just cannot afford keep up? Forcing people out of their homes to God knows where? Don't turn your backs on us and allow landlords to continue these exorbitant rent increases every year.

I beg the Oregon Legislature to listen to people like me and pass SB 611.

Thank you,

Nancy Ashworth, Eugene, Oregon