

Submitter: Ksenia Striplin

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure: SB611

Dear Chair Jama, Vice Chair Anderson and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

I'm writing to ask that you prioritize the swift passage of Senate Bill 611. Four in 10 Oregonians rent their homes and are already paying some of the highest rents in the nation.

Keeping rent reasonable impacts me personally.

Everyone in Oregon deserves safe and stable housing but our high rental costs and housing inequities are forcing families out of their homes. While the Oregon housing market provides skyrocketing property wealth for landlords, renters have nothing to fall back on when their monthly costs rise beyond their paychecks.

Very few people can afford a 14.6% housing cost increase. Getting an increase that high may as well be an eviction notice for Oregon renters.

I personally know several of my friends have struggled to afford housing, myself included. It's impossible to find something that won't exceed a single paycheck, and that's not even factoring in utilities and bills. A number of my friends and myself have had to move back in with our parents since 2020 due to covid and we are still barely able to save money with all of the inflation and tragedy. These landlords, banks, and corporations are milking everyone dry of every penny they can get. It's barbaric and impossible to keep up with their demands for money from the working class. What they charge for a studio apartment with little to no amenities is borderline theft at this point. Nothing is affordable.

SB 611 is a reasonable approach. Allowable annual rent increases for current tenants will be more predictable for current tenants and more homes will be protected. And between tenants, landlords can charge whatever the market will bear for vacant units.

SB 611 does not solve all the inequities in our housing market, but it is an important step to more fairness and is an essential element in the legislature's response to the state's housing and homelessness crisis.

Please vote yes on SB 611 to prevent more high-rent homelessness in our communities.

Sincerely,
Ksenia Striplin
Beaverton, OR 97003