

Submitter: Aje Amaechi
On Behalf Of: Freedom to Thrive
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3503

Dear Honorable Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am writing today to express my strong support for HB 3503, which repeals prohibition on local rent control. As a resident of Oregon, I am deeply concerned about the affordable housing crisis that is affecting our state. I believe that allowing individual municipalities to create even stronger rent control ordinances is an important step towards addressing this crisis and ensuring that all Oregonians have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Currently, Oregon law preempts local governments from implementing rent control policies, leaving renters vulnerable to the whims of landlords who can raise rents at will. This has created a situation where renters are often forced to choose between paying exorbitant rents or facing eviction and potential homelessness. In many cases, renters are forced to leave their homes and communities because they simply cannot afford to live there anymore.

Repealing prohibitions on local rent controls would empower municipalities to implement policies that reflect the unique needs and challenges of their communities. This could include measures such as rent stabilization, just cause eviction protections, and other measures that would help renters stay in their homes and maintain stable housing.

I believe that allowing local governments to create stronger rent control policies would have a number of benefits for Oregon. For one, it would help to address the affordable housing crisis by providing renters with greater protections and stability. This, in turn, would help to reduce homelessness and increase access to affordable housing across the state.

Additionally, allowing local governments to create stronger rent control policies would give renters a greater voice in the decisions that affect their lives. By giving municipalities the power to regulate rents, renters would have more control over their housing situations and be able to advocate for their own needs and interests.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to support the repeal of the state preemption on local rent controls. This is a critical step towards addressing the affordable housing crisis in our state and ensuring that all Oregonians have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Aje Amaechi