

Stable Homes for Oregon Families Road Show testimony template

Stable Homes is part of the Fair Shot coalition, which means we are getting lots of additional support for our agenda. Fair Shot has put together a testimony template for the Ways & Means Road Show that you can customize for your organization.

Our state legislators are preparing to make their funding decisions for the state's budget, and they need to hear from you!

This is a guide to write testimony to the Oregon State Legislature Ways and Means Committee budget roadshow.

What is the budget roadshow?

The budget roadshow is a series of public events across the state where our state legislators, who make decisions about what will be included in the state's budget, will listen to the public's input. It's our best opportunity to directly tell Oregon lawmakers why \$100 million in increased rent assistance matters to help prevent homelessness and keep people safe and stable in their homes.

When is it?

Find an event near you

- [Portland](#): Saturday, April 8, 10am-12pm
 - Portland Community College Sylvania Campus - PAC Auditorium, 12000 SW 49th Ave. (in-person or written only)
- Newport: Friday, April 14, 5-7pm
 - Newport Performing Arts Center 777 W. Olive St. (in-person or written only)

[Register for IN-PERSON Testimony](#) - See Below
[Submit WRITTEN Testimony](#)
- Roseburg: Friday, April 21, 5-7pm
 - Umpqua Community College, Jacoby Auditorium, 1140 Umpqua College Rd. (in-person or written only)
 - [Register for IN-PERSON Testimony](#) - See Below
 - [Submit WRITTEN Testimony](#)
- Ontario: Friday, April 28, 5-7pm
 - Four Rivers Cultural Center, 676 SW 5th Ave. (in-person or written only)
 - [Register for IN-PERSON Testimony](#) - See Below
 - [Submit WRITTEN Testimony](#)
- Salem: Wednesday, May 3, 5-7pm
 - State Capitol, Hearing Room F (virtual, in-person or written)

- [Register for IN-PERSON Testimony](#) - See Below
- [Submit WRITTEN Testimony](#)

IN PERSON TESTIMONY GUIDELINES:

IMPORTANT - Because there are a wide variety of areas that count on state funding, the Committee is requiring that people who testify IN PERSON pick a category. For rent assistance and SB 611A, we are recommending that people choose: “Economic Development and Transportation,” because our communities cannot thrive without these policies.

Oregon Legislative Assembly - Public Testimony Registration Form

You are registering to speak to: **SB 5506**
Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Registration Instructions ⓘ

Select the Meeting Date:
 4/8/2023 10:00:00 AM ▼

First Name:*

Last Name:*

City of Residence:*

Phone Number:*

Location When You Testify:*
 Select... ▼

Email Address:*

How do you wish to be addressed?

Organization:

Organizational Title:

Choose Budget Topic (to write-in, select Other)

Select... ▼

- Select...
- Education - Early Learning
- Education - K-12
- Education - Universities and Community Colleges
- Health
- Human Services
- Natural Resources/Environment
- Economic Development/Transportation
- Public Safety/Judiciary
- Capital Construction
- Other

Submit Registration to Testify Cancel

How do I write testimony whether in person or written?

The most important part of your testimony is to share your personal experience and perspective on why increased rent assistance will help Oregon renters.

Use the template below to draft, customize your testimony, whether verbal or written. And if you go in person, please ALSO submit written testimony so it is on the record in writing. .

Please note:

- Written testimony can be submitted in your preferred language.

- Once submitted, your testimony will become public information. Please do not include any personal information you would not like to make public.

Sample Testimony

This is a template. Please update each highlighted section with your story and information before submitting, and feel free to edit the pre-written copy. You can use this for verbal or written testimony.

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, Vice-Chairs Girod, Gomberg, and Smith, and members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee,

Please pass SB 5506 to provide an additional \$100 million in rent assistance.

My name is Charlotte and I live in Portland. Since 2020, my husband and I have had to move a handful of times and, most recently, we left our home because of a 14.6% rental increase.

After the house we were renting was sold, we moved into a much smaller duplex. After a year, our rent was increased by 10%, the maximum at the time. The landlord didn't do basic maintenance; I went 10 months without a dryer and had to repair the toilet and oven myself, multiple times. I've never had so many appliances break. The rent was already \$1,900 and, in year two, we got a 14.6% increase. This increase pushed us out of our home—it wouldn't have been sustainable for us to stay knowing our landlord would give us as many increases as she could. To be honest, I think the increase was intended to push us out so the landlord could increase the rent even more.

I am a union organizer with SEIU, and my husband is a public high school teacher with a Master's Degree. We make good salaries, and our jobs contribute to the welfare of the everyday Oregonians. We should be in a more comfortable situation than we are. And yet, I know it's even worse for other people in my community—I see people living in tents every day. It is unconscionable to force people out of our homes for no other reason than price gouging. When you're spending this much of your income on rent, a single vet bill or a broken car could derail your entire life. Every day I hear from workers who have had paycheck issues through WorkDay's payroll system, and they are losing their homes, cars, childcare, and worse.

I've lived in Portland long enough to remember when it used to be affordable and have seen how bad things have gotten. I grew up in Oregon and I love our beautiful state and I want to be able to stay here. We need protections in place that allow Oregonians to stay in our homes, and SB 611A is one important step forward. If it has become this difficult for my family, then I know there are thousands suffering in more dire situations.

I am begging you to support the Governor's strategic decision to use all available current resources to invest in these key priorities. Oregon's reserves are already healthy and strong. Rather than saving more for a future Rainy Day, we need to make investments now. We create

widespread economic opportunity for all when we invest in access to food, housing, and health care for our communities, and strengthen our workforce through fair wages, benefits, and protections.

Respectfully,

Charlotte Blocker
Portland, OR