

Submitter: Karen Rogers  
On Behalf Of: Self and other senior renters  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: SB611

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Rogers. I own a manufactured home and rent land in Brookings. I, along with all 43 other residents in our park, received a 14.6% rent increase this year. I am testifying in strong support of SB 611B.

My husband and I are both 69. We've been married 51 years and have lived in our home for the last 14 years. Never in my life could I have imagined receiving a 14.6% increase. I still can't process it, especially in light of all the other impacts inflation is having on those of us on fixed incomes. My husband and I, we've lived on a budget for years. We live simply and within our means. I cut coupons, we don't eat out, we lower our thermostat in the winter. But for something this big, we'll have to make serious cuts. And some things, like prescription meds for my heart condition, we just can't cut. We'll get by this year, but if we had an increase like this next year we'd have to leave the area.

The increase has gone into effect and we have had to tighten our belts. My husband and I are lucky to have two of us, but many of my neighbors aren't as lucky. Everyone here is over 55, and some people have lived here as long as 25 years. The nail on the coffin is that, with these rent increases, we wouldn't even be able to sell our home. No one would buy it because the increases make it too unstable. That means we'd not only lose our home, but we'd lose our lifelong investment.

We love Brookings, we love Oregon. We are meant to be here. This is our forever home. We don't want to leave. We've worked our entire lives and just want to live out our retirement in peace. I urge you to pass SB 611B and keep our park afloat in Brookings.

Sincerely,  
Karen from Brookings