

February 25, 2023

Chair Janna, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee:

Our names are Sue Barnhart and Michael Carrigan and we are retired, Sue from a career as a social worker and Michael from a career as a community organizer. We write to you in support of SB 611, which addresses the critical need for rental stability in our state.

This proposal will provide much-needed relief to renters who are struggling to make ends meet in the face of rising rents and limited resources. It will limit annual rent increases to 3% plus CPI or 8% whichever is lower, provide protections for all buildings over three years-old, and increase relocation assistance in no-fault evictions.

I personally know how difficult it can be to face rent increases, especially when it means having to choose between paying the bills or putting food on the table. Our daughter who is 25 and a very hard worker but makes minimum wage continues to live with us because rents are not affordable. The burden of housing insecurity affects families, seniors, and low-income renters throughout our state. We must act now to ensure that our communities have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

In conclusion, I urge our legislators to support SB 611, which will provide much-needed relief to renters across our state. Housing is a human right, and it is our responsibility to ensure that all Oregonians have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sue Barnhart

Michael Carrigan

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