



March 22, 2023

Senator Kayse Jama
Chair, Senate Housing and Development Committee
900 Court St NE, S-409
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Anderson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Timothy Morris and I serve as the Executive Director of the Springfield Eugene Tenant Association. SETA is a non-profit, public service organization that is dedicated to renters' rights and interests. We provide a free hotline as community support and we are often times a renter's first call when they receive a rent increase or eviction notice. We presently resolve over 230 cases a month.

The status quo is not working.

Nearly half of the state of Oregon rents their homes. [According to the state economist, more than 50% of Oregon renters do not have enough money left over](#) for food, medicine, and basic necessities. Nearly a quarter of all Oregonians are living paycheck-to-paycheck and are at direct risk of homelessness. At this rate, an unregulated rent increase is akin to an eviction notice.

The legislature did the right thing in passing SB 608, but COVID-19 highlighted the effects of decades of financial instability and the lack of dignity tenants face every day. The continued repercussions of the impact COVID-19 had on our economy are still felt today.

Without SB 611, we will see half-empty apartment units and our already overburdened streets double in size. **We urge you to pass SB 611 immediately to support those most vulnerable in our community.** If you'd like to connect with me, please reach out to tmorris@springfieldeugenetenantassociation.com or call me at 541-357-7331. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Timothy Morris
Executive Director
Springfield Eugene Tenant Association.