



Senate Committee on Housing and Development
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 3rd, 2026

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

SETA is a non-profit, public service organization dedicated to renters' rights and interests. We provide free community resources, including our free Tenant Hotline, and we directly serve about 240 renter households every month through combinations of several programs.

SETA urges your support for SB 1523, the Bridge to Digital Divide bill. Many tenants face significant barriers to technology and web-based services. It's crucial that all tenants and applicants have equal access to critical processes such as paying rent, submitting maintenance requests, viewing account statements, and more.

Through our free Hotline, SETA has received many calls relating to extremely preventable situations if the landlord was required to offer paper options. Tenants who were locked out of their portal for "maintenance" and then charged a late fee. An elder who was a part of a transition from one landlord to another and the rental agreement paperwork being lost in the portals. Tenants who submit critical maintenance requests for their safety that mysteriously disappear, removing any type of paper trail for tenants to advocate for themselves.

SB 1523 would implement much-needed protections for tenants with limited access to electronic services. Despite an individual's circumstances, this bill ensures all people will remain competitive applicants and can continue to live independently. This bill does not hinder a landlord's ability to implement or utilize such services, and simply provides a clean and alternative path for tenants to uphold their obligations.

This is a simple, common sense solution that ensures all renters have the same fair access to housing, regardless of their access or familiarity with technology.

For all these reasons, we urge you to join us in strong support of SB 1523. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your service to Oregon communities.



If you'd like to connect with me, please reach out to tmorris@springfieldeugenetenantassociation.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy Morris
Executive Director
Springfield Eugene Tenant Association