



February 5, 2025

Re: Support For Senate Bill 1523

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

My name is Rebekah Markillie and I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Housing Alliance to request your support for SB 1523. This bill enables tenants to be able to use paper and off-line options for critical things like paying rent, applying for and maintaining housing and using laundry facilities.

Many tenants love having paperless and online options for paying rent; they can access an online portal and set up autopay to streamline their bill-paying. This bill would not change that. This bill just codifies that offline options are protected and should be made available.

A few months ago there was an outage at Amazon Web Services (AWS), which provides a large portion of the infrastructure required to support the Internet. While AWS was offline, I wasn't able to check my work email, or access my banking app. The Internet — and rental payment portals — are not infallible. This bill also would help bridge the digital divide. While most Oregonians are using social media, comfortable downloading and uploading documents online, that is not the case for many older adults or people who have limited access to Internet services or a computer. SB 1523 would mean more equitable access to housing by allowing paper applications and paying rent with a paper check or a money order.

The Oregon Housing Alliance is a statewide coalition of over 100 member organizations, including tenant organizations; affordable housing developers and operators; social service providers and shelter operators; Community Action Agencies; Public Housing Authorities; housing industry businesses and professionals; city and county governments; and community-based nonprofits and advocacy groups. Many of our members are within the community land trust ecosystem and organizations that are committed to expanding homeownership opportunities across the state.

Our diverse membership is united by the belief that every Oregonian deserves a home that is affordable, stable, accessible and safe. To this end, we urge your support of Senate Bill 1523.

Sincerely,

Rebekah Markillie  
Oregon Housing Alliance  
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