



community alliance of tenants

My name is Alexis Ames, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Community Alliance of Tenants (CAT) in **support of SB 1566**.

Community Alliance of Tenants is a statewide, tenant-led organization that works with renters across Oregon through tenant education workshops, organizing support, and our Renters' Rights Hotline. We work with tenants from many different backgrounds, household types, income levels, and life circumstances. What unites the tenants we serve is a shared need for stable, affordable housing in the communities where they live.

Across Oregon, many tenants are struggling to find housing they can afford, particularly in areas where new development has slowed or stopped altogether. In some communities, affordable housing projects simply never get built, or plans are scaled back so much that they no longer meet local needs. When that happens, tenants are often left behind, with fewer choices and fewer paths to stability.

SB 1566 responds to this reality in a practical way. The bill keeps prevailing wage protections in place for public construction, while clarifying rules that have unintentionally made affordable housing harder to build. By addressing issues around financing, site infrastructure, prior site use, and limited on-site commercial space, **SB 1566** helps clear up barriers that have stalled projects without weakening worker protections.

From a tenant perspective, this kind of balance matters. Tenants need more affordable homes, and workers deserve fair wages and protections. **SB 1566** recognizes that both can be true at the same time, and that smart policy can support housing development without cutting corners on labor standards.

For these reasons, Community Alliance of Tenants supports **SB 1566** and urges its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Alexis Ames
Community Alliance of Tenants