

Joseph Tomlin  
Ashland, OR 97520  
February 1st, 2019  
State of Oregon Senate Housing Committee  
Shemia Fagan, Chair

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for prioritizing the housing crisis and establishing this committee.

My name is Joseph Tomlin and I am a resident of Ashland and a community volunteer with Rogue Climate and with the Rogue Action Center. Due to a no cause eviction, I am unfortunately couchsurfing while I look for housing. Up until I received a no cause evicted 2 weeks ago, I was a renter for 5 years in the Rogue Valley. When I asked my landlady why I was being evicted she simply said that it was a no cause eviction and that there was no reason at all for it.

SB608 is the result of 2 years of debate, consideration and work. This is a compromise, but it is still a well-vetted and fair bill that would protect tenants. It is a crucial first step for Oregon housing rights.

If this bill was passed it would not only protect myself from this bad situation, but it would protect the 1 in 3 people in Jackson County that pay more than 50% of their income to rent. This bill would create a true Just-Cause eviction standard, banning no-cause evictions in most tenancies across the state. It will prevent extreme rent increases and provide important stability during a tenancy. It will curb displacement. People who rent their homes deserve at least this basic level of protection, and we should act now to implement these fundamentals. Oregonians can not wait any longer.

Please pass SB608. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Tomlin', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph Tomlin