

From:
To: [Exhibits SHOUS](#)
Subject: Harmony Bartnick - Yes on SB 608
Date: Monday, February 4, 2019 10:24:37 AM
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Monday, February 4, 2019

Dear Chair Fagan, Vice Chair Girod, and Members of the Senate Housing Committee:

My name is Harmony Bartnick. I am a renter and have lived in Gresham, Oregon and Portland, Oregon. In 7 years I've lived in 3 different apartments. The first 2 were in Gresham due to property managements paid by Landlords who gouge the tenants with high rents, no cause evictions, violation notices, warnings and threats on trying to get the most money out of you.

As a tenant you have little peace. It's been now a year I'm living in a new apartment building in Portland. I finally got out of Gresham. I call it the Great Sham. It brings back unfriendly, disturbing, stressful memories. I don't want to go back there, but I feel I must do service to help others in need.

Many more people are homeless than ever before...Why? It's not that there aren't enough available apartments that's a bunch of bull. It's the rents they are going up and up and up. We have no protection as tenants in Gresham now. If it wasn't for an organization such as Northwest Pilot Project I would be houseless too. You can bet on that it was darn right traumatizing. The East Park Place Apartments managed by Princeton Management gave me a No Cause Eviction, because of a late fee that was due.

I had it set up with my Credit union to pay my rent while I was away. The automatic bill pay didn't send the rent to them on time, I finally went to the bank to get them to write a letter and reimburse me, but Princeton wouldn't accept it. It made no difference to them, I tried to fight it in court, Elizabeth De Niro Watson from Northwest Pilot Project and a friend, came to back me up in court, I was representing myself.

Princeton Management had their own private lawyers more than one. I could see in that court room how the system was not fair how little leverage I had against ruthless property management companies, and judges not interested in hearing your pain and hardship.

I got a little more time, I was cleaning the apartment half way through, when the manager said I had to get out. I had to drop everything get the rest of my stuff out on the sidewalk and street and thank God a neighbor helped me carry it all to this other apartment. I never got my security deposit back, and they came up with some ungodly amount that they said I owed them. Which according to my records I did not owe. That was on my record tarnishing it.

Second place was also in Rockwood Village Courts Apartments lived there all of 3 years. Right by a busy street I heard it day and night the traffic going by the big semi-trucks rumbling by aggravating my insomnia, and asbestos in the popcorn ceiling above.

However, I was grateful for a roof over my head,

Templeton Management owned by NFN Investments they raised my rent 3X all the last time they raised it from \$850.00 to \$1200.00 I couldn't live there any more I had to leave.

I had to turn to Northwest Pilot Project again they help people 55 or older, so once again they came to my rescue thank God for that organization they are a real life saver. I wrote 2 long letters commending them of their fine work in the community. I told them they could have my security deposit back from Village Courts as appreciation from me. Even though, I left that place spotless I never got my security deposit returned. They too said I owed them money when I left.

That's where Northwest Pilot Project took up the slack, I can't tell you how great that organization is. I'm so grateful for that outfit it's A-one in my book. Lila Pearman helped me get into the Portland Relay Resources building-where they treat you like a human being.

Relay Resources helps minorities and people with disabilities. My rent is affordable paying much lower than the other two places in Gresham, and I'm in Portland where tenants at least get some protection. I feel I've been through some tough times it's hard to believe there is any Democracy in this country anymore. When people have to fear they could be houseless, for no reasonable cause. Where older people on fix incomes have to be uprooted from their homes bullied and intimidated by property management companies that have high employee turnovers and think nothing of seeing how much money they can get out of you.

It's wrong we need help the high homeless rate is due to Landlord/property management greed nothing else. It's greed and greed alone nothing else.

I ask that you pass Senate Bill 608 for all of Oregon's renters.

Harmony
Community Alliance of Tenants Member

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Pamela N. Phan

Policy & Organizing Director,
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[Renters Rights Hotline - 503.288.0130 | oregoncat.org](https://www.oregoncat.org)

