

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Noble, Vice Chair Sanchez, Members of the Committee;

I am a young homeowner in the Lents Neighborhood of SE Portland, an area seeing extreme increases in home values and investment. I, as a homeowner, will directly benefit from a neighborhood that is gentrifying. That is not the case for thousands of families that are living at the whims of landlords who often represent investors looking for the most money possible.

A few weeks ago, I had the privileged to sit in a room of renters with Community Alliance of Tenants and the Lents Strong Housing Team, many people of color, immigrants, and non-English speakers. They were practicing in front of everyone, their own stories about renting, and what it is like working so hard to just get by, never getting ahead. Some had been homeless, some have housing because they live in subsidized units. Many live in private rentals in a society that provides little support for renters at risk of displacement. Without knowing it, many of those renters gave testimony to Chair Keny-Guyer, who humbly slipped into the room to be a fly on the wall and listen.

I want to live in a state that has adequate protections for renters. The ability to raise rents to any level or evict tenants for no reason is criminal. While I would support a more aggressive limit (5%?), I appreciate that our legislators are moving this bill forward without amendments. This is a crisis, we need to act now! Everyone deserves a place to call home. Let's also find ways to fund more affordable housing at the lower levels (30%).

**Please vote yes on SB 608.**

Thank you for your hard work and commitment to the most vulnerable members of our community.

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, this is the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead