



777 NW Wall St. Ste. 200  
Bend, OR 97703  
www.bendchamber.org  
(541) 382 - 3221

February 19, 2019

House Committee on Human Services and Housing  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Tim Knopp  
900 Court St. NE S-309  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Representative Cheri Helt  
900 Court St. NE H-371  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Representative Jack Zika  
900 Court St. NE H-387  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Regarding: SB 608: Concerns relating to residential tenancies

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Senator Knopp, Representative Helt, Representative Zika, and Members of the Committee,

The Bend Chamber of Commerce would like to provide additional input on SB 608. Bend, like many parts of Oregon, is in desperate need of additional affordable housing, and recognize the need for all citizens to have a home in our community. However, as stated in our letter dated February 11<sup>th</sup>, we continue to have concerns that SB 608 may inadvertently inhibit the addition of affordable housing inventory -which is essential to resolving our housing crisis.

We also want to emphasize that the rent increase cap must not drop below 7 percent, plus CPI. Any less than this, now or in the foreseeable future, could have the opposite affect the benefits this bill is intending to provide renters. Additionally, the legislative and public comment process for this bill has been so expedited that we are concerned there is not adequate data to understand its impacts. We also have concerns about the emergency clause making the rules effective upon passage. The pace with which this legislation is moving to implement unprecedented statewide rent control might create further disruption in an already unstable housing crisis.

On behalf of the Bend Chamber of Commerce, our 1,300+ members representing over 25,000, SB 608 needs to address the root cause of our housing crisis – supply – and the affects SB 608 will have on inventory and housing costs for our area over time.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Katy Brooks  
CEO  
Bend Chamber of Commerce