

Pamela Chapin  
232 NE Steiger St  
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February 18, 2019

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice Chair Noble and Vice Chair Sanchez, and members of the committee,

My name is Pamela Chapin and I am one of the 48% of renters in the Rogue Valley. I live in Grants Pass but I am currently a full-time student at Southern Oregon University in Ashland Oregon. Due consistently rising rental prices across the valley, I cannot afford to live closer to where I attend school. This term, I am commuting five days of the week, roughly 100 miles round trip daily, and am spending roughly six hours per week in my car. I am not the only one in this situation. Two of my coworkers also attend school in Ashland, commute from Grants Pass, and due to our schedules, we aren't able to carpool together. SB608 not only will help protect renters across our state, but it will also help in addressing the growing climate issues we are facing, and that we are contributing to in ways we are not even readily aware of.

While a cap on rental increases at 7% a year, in my lived experience, does not go far enough, it is an excellent start to addressing this issue. Not only will it stabilize rents for individuals who are cost burdened or on fixed incomes, with protections against no-cause evictions, renters will begin to feel safer in their communities, feel less stressed, and feel welcomed. This is extremely important.

Right now, many of us don't feel welcomed in our communities. Many feel that we are just faceless shapes that provide money to those who have chosen to own property and are trying to turn a profit on the backs of our right to be housed. I personally feel stressed, constantly anxious about how I will handle a rent increase, being displaced from an eviction due to no legitimate fault of my own, worried that I don't have enough money saved to stay not only in the community I would like to be a part of, but the community that I was born in. I urge you to please pass SB608. It is the step that ALL of Oregon needs.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Pamela Chapin