



OPAL
Environmental Justice Oregon

opalpdx.org

3202 SE 82nd Ave, Suite B, Portland, OR 97266 | 503-774-4503

May 3, 2017

Senate Human Services Committee

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2004

Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Olsen, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, I write in support of HB 2004.

OPAL is a membership-driven organization working to build power and building leadership of those most impacted by issues such as housing. Environmental Justice (EJ) addresses how people experience their environment: the places where we live, work, learn, play and pray. The question of who gets to live where, and why, is rooted in economic, social and racial justice.

Oregon's current statewide housing crisis impacts EJ communities which include people of color, low-income, transit-dependent, people with disabilities, women, youth, seniors, and workers the most. We need to act swiftly in passing laws that end no cause evictions and unpredictable, unregulated rent increases which continue to worsen the well being of all Oregonians.

HB 2004 is a critical bill that addresses this important issue, takes into consideration the rights of tenants as well as promotes housing stability by providing just-cause notices and rent stabilization.

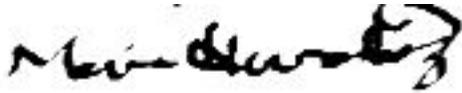
Oregonians currently struggling to live- those who are low income and/or have other limitations- having a stable, safe and affordable home becomes a challenge on their daily lives for multiple reasons. Housing becomes the greatest expense in their budget thus limiting their coverage of other vital needs, such as food, utilities, or health related expenses.

Oregonians struggle at work due to housing rent increases and no just cause evictions. Communities find themselves working two-three jobs only to be able to afford their housing needs. This makes it difficult for them to maintain healthy relationships with their families and to handle personal stress.

Stable, safe and affordable housing provides a foundation for families and communities to live without the constant fear of suddenly ending up without a place to call home. It provides youth the ability to learn and play without worrying where their family would live next.

We urge legislators to pass HB 2004 in order to seek for the protection of tenants as a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria Hernandez".

Maria Hernandez
Advocacy Coordinator

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**Building Power for Environmental Justice
and Civil Rights in Our Communities**