

From: Violeta Rubiani
To: [SHS Exhibits](#)
Subject: Fwd: Lift the Ban on State-Wide Rent Control!
Date: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 2:26:03 PM

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

When I first moved to Oregon 17 years ago, I immediately felt that I belonged, that I had finally found my forever home.

I have paid taxes, rent and utilities here for the last 17 years. I have gotten undergraduate and graduate degrees here (and I'm still paying for them!). I have been a public servant and nonprofit employee here. I have contributed to the diversity of this city and this state. I have invested my money and my time, and given back all the education and knowledge I've attained. I met my partner here. I have built my entire life. Here. **I love this state.** And I can't imagine living anywhere else in the world.

But that love no longer feels reciprocated. As a renter, I feel like I don't matter anymore. All that seems to matter is profit. In a state that has prioritized the wellbeing of developers and landlords, that has displaced entire communities time and time again, that continues to victimize communities of color, low-income families, veterans, and retirees on fixed incomes, I no longer feel that my community belongs to me, or to anyone who isn't wealthy.

When it comes to raising the minimum wage or improving the lives of workers and vulnerable communities, Business clamors for counties, cities and municipalities to have independence, to have the ability to make the choices that make sense to their governments and their constituents.

Today, using the same logic, I urge you to support lifting the ban on state-wide rent control. Give counties, cities and municipalities the ability to do what's best for their constituents. More importantly: give those constituents the power to demand of their public officials what's best for their families and communities.

I don't need to tell you that "Actions speak louder than words." I hope your actions show that you care about ALL Oregonians, even those of us who aren't wealthy or can't afford to own homes. **Please support HB 2004.**

Respectfully,

Violeta Rubiani
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