

Kate Howe
Portland
LD 1710

My name is Kate Howe and I am a new landlord in Portland. I strongly oppose LD1710.

While I agree with the desire and necessity of fixing the housing crisis, this bill is completely misguided, and will exacerbate rather than help the crisis, while also unfairly scapegoating housing providers and singling us out for government interference that no other industry has.

Landlords are not the source of the housing crisis. Many landlords are small business owners, trying to provide safe and comfortable housing for people while as a way to earn a livelihood. The source of the crisis is not enough housing. The harder and more onerous you make it for landlords to do business, the less investment there will be in this sector.

If the price of food is too high, the government does not badger farms, make life difficult for them, and fix the prices they can charge for their outputs. Instead the government subsidizes the price of food and incentivizes farmers to grow more. I don't understand why landlords are the only sector of private, small business owners where the government thinks that price-fixing is ok.