



Oregon Senate Republicans

PRESS RELEASE

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Senate Democrats Pass Rent Control, Ignoring the Lack of Affordable Housing in Oregon

SALEM – Tuesday, the majority party followed through on their promise to pass Rent Control early in session, without bipartisan support. SB 608, which will cap rent increases statewide, will lead to fewer available affordable housing units statewide.

“The overwhelming message during the public hearing on rent control was that there is not enough affordable housing in Oregon, yet this bill does nothing to address the real problem,” said Senate Minority Leader Herman Baertschiger, Jr., R-Grants Pass. *“If we actually want to address the issue of housing in Oregon, then it’s time to take a good hard look at the barriers in place that limit developing more affordable housing.”*

“This bill will not accomplish the goal that the proponents have set,” said Senator Tim Knopp, R-Bend, *“The likely outcome from this legislation will be fewer affordable housing units, and increased rent throughout the state.”*

The Rent Control bill was written with urban Oregon in mind and does not offer any alternatives for rural or frontier communities.

“This is a problem that was created by Portland, and this legislation is designed for Portland,” said Senator Fred Girod, R-Stayton. *“Instead of addressing the real issues here, this bill will only create more problems throughout the state.”*

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