



February 14, 2024

I write to vehemently oppose the insidious and destructive force known as rent control. Rent control is not a solution to our housing woes; it is a poison that corrodes the very foundation of our economy and undermines the principles of free-market capitalism.

Rent control shackles housing providers, stifles investment, and distorts housing markets. It discourages property owners from maintaining and improving their rental units, leading to deteriorating living conditions for tenants. It discourages developers from building new housing, exacerbating housing shortages and driving up prices for everyone else.

Do not be fooled by the false promises of rent control. It does not create affordable housing; it merely redistributes scarcity. It benefits a fortunate few at the expense of the many, creating a privileged class of tenants who enjoy below-market rents while others struggle to find housing or face skyrocketing prices in unregulated markets.

Rent control is not compassionate; it is cruel. It traps tenants in substandard housing, denies them choice and mobility, and perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality. It stifles innovation and entrepreneurship, hindering economic growth and prosperity for all.

We must reject the misguided notion that government intervention is the solution to our housing challenges. Instead, we must embrace policies that promote competition, innovation, and investment in housing. We must unleash the creative forces of the free market to provide abundant, affordable housing options for all.

I urge you to join me in opposing rent control policies like HB 2114, and advocating for policies that empower individuals, spur economic growth, and ensure housing opportunities for generations to come. Let us not be swayed by populist rhetoric or short-sighted fixes. Let us instead embrace the principles of freedom, opportunity, and prosperity that have made our state and nation great.

Respectfully,

Rep. Travis Couture
State Representative
35th Legislative District