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Dear Deborah

Following the recent passage of the Residential Tenancies Amendment Act, I wanted to thank you personally for your role in bringing about this once in a generation change!

I am grateful for your support, ideas and collaboration in a very long and hard-fought campaign. There have been many occasions during this fight, when it looked unlikely that any legislation would come to the Parliament, and that the campaign was shooting for the moon!

We've achieved substantial improvements in security for renters, and the ability to make their house a home. We've started to shift the balance of power, so renters' tenure will no longer be at the whim of landlords, will have clear information about the property before they move in and VCAT must consider what's reasonable, before terminating a lease. Landlord misbehaviour will be recorded, bonds will be more easily accessible and victims of family violence will have greater protections.

Renters in Victoria would have been significantly worse off without your persistence and commitment to changing unfair renting laws.

Without your role in providing evidence to support the need for change, spreading the word through your networks to grow the campaign we would not have succeeded.

Your personal commitment and your organisation's support helped build the evidence that the overwhelming majority of the community supported change and this groundswell helped change government policy and deliver change.

While the fight for fair renting laws isn't over, we've come a long way! Thank you for your contribution to the journey so far. Let's work together to cement these changes in strong regulations that create a fairer future for Victorian renters.

Kind regards

Mark O'Brien
Chief Executive Officer
Tenancy Victoria

