

March 17, 2025

Chair Marsh, Co-Vice Chair Anderson, Co-Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for all you do to provide affordable housing for Oregonians.

I chair the Governance Board of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Milwaukie, and also am a member of our Housing team. I know the difference stable housing has made in my life and see how hard it is to afford stable housing today.

Change is hard for aging congregations such as St. Paul's United Methodist Church. We steward land in the midst of the community, and wish to provide affordable housing to our neighbors. We have been working towards this for 3 years. One question which is always arises is "What is it going to cost?" So far we've been fortunate to work on a affordable housing feasibility study with a developer who understands our limited financial resources to pay for predevelopment costs upfront, but we know we have a long road and significant costs ahead of us before we can advance our dreams for the neighborhood. And we know other congregations in our area have land and want to pursue affordable housing but have less support than we do.

You can take some of the uncertainty out of the process and unlock affordable housing now where it is needed most. Show your support and help us convince our congregations by allowing grants to cover some of these predevelopment costs.

Thank you for supporting HB 2964.



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