

Members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

I wish to testify in favor of House Bill 2008. Members of the King of Kings Social Justice Committee and in fact our entire congregation have been concerned and worked on housing issues for the past 5 years. We began with efforts to offer spaces for car camping on our property. Unfortunately we were not successful — the neighbors couldn't be convinced that this was a worthwhile safe effort to allow houseless people a place to get a safe nights sleep. We were disappointed but have not stopped in our efforts. We see this bill as an opportunity to move forward with affordable housing for our neighbors. There are several other churches in Clackamas County who are working together to find the means to build on their property — saving the expense of purchasing land. This bill would reduce another barrier to these efforts. The need for affordable housing has not been reduced. Our neighbors continue to struggle to stay housed.

Please move this bill on, with your whole hearted support. You will be helping many Oregonians have a safe warm place to live and raise their families.

Sincerely,

Mary Zellharie  
Milwaukie