

Submitter: Jessica Kimmet
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2964
Statement in Support of HB 2964
First United Methodist Church of Portland

As members of First United Methodist Church of Portland, we believe in the moral imperative to ensure safe, stable, and affordable housing for all. Our congregation recently read "When We Walk By", a book that challenges us to confront the realities of housing insecurity and act with compassion and justice. The need for affordable housing in Oregon is undeniable, and we must remove barriers that prevent the construction of much-needed homes.

HB 2964 takes a critical step toward addressing our housing crisis by unlocking underutilized land and strengthening Oregon Housing and Community Services' (OHCS) Predevelopment Loan Program. By allowing OHCS to issue grants in addition to loans and by expanding support to affordable homeownership projects and limited equity cooperatives, this bill will empower nonprofit, rural, and culturally specific developers to create more affordable housing.

As people of faith, we are called to love our neighbors—not just in words, but in action. Supporting HB 2964 aligns with our values of justice, equity, and community. We urge legislators to pass this bill and to ensure continued funding through HB 5011, so that more Oregonians can find stable and affordable places to call home.

We stand in support of HB 2964 and call on our leaders to take action.