

Greetings, Chair Fahey and Committee Members,

My name is Lois Jordahl and I live in Portland. I am a member of Salt and Light Lutheran Church, part of Leaven Community, and we are participants in the Leaven Community Land and Housing Coalition, a coalition of faith communities in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington County, leveraging our land and resources so that all Oregonians can come home.

We started the Leaven Community Land and Housing Coalition because we were hearing stories among our members, their friends and families, of housing insecurities and difficulties with affording a home in Portland. We had previous experience with attempting to partner with a housing non-profit to build affordable housing on a portion of our property, and because of the costs of meeting land use regulations we were unable to do so.

Everyone in the metro area knows affordable housing is critical. Many religious organizations have available land AND the willingness to use it for affordable housing. I urge you to approve HB 2008 so that faith communities across the state of Oregon can build affordable housing on our land with as few barriers as possible.

Our neighbors need your help, creativity and support in leveraging every option and financing stream to begin solving the crisis of housing instability and homelessness in our city and county.

Respectfully,
Lois Jordahl