

Submitter: Leslie Murray
On Behalf Of: Peace Trail Village
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure: HB3482

Chair Dexter, Co-Vice Chair Gamba, Co-Vice Chair Helfrich, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share about our experience trying to build transitional housing in Yamhill County. I am Leslie Murray, Lead Pastor at North Valley Friends Church. We have been trying to develop the first transitional housing development in Yamhill County, specifically Newberg, OR. I am writing to you today to advocate for the full funding and passage of HB 3482 to provide resources for non-profits, faith communities, tribal communities, housing authorities, and local governments in the process of developing affordable housing on their property.

NVFC has applied with the city to build an 8 unit cottage cluster to assist those who are houseless. Our land use application has been approved, however, the road has been difficult. This has been quite a growth edge for us as we are a church with 20 acres and feel led to assist the housing crisis in our community. We have followed all the rules and regulations according to code but concerned neighbors have attempted to block the project in any way possible. At this point in time I believe we have two LUBA appeals trying to shut down our project even though the City of Newberg has made it clear that we are a Type 1 application. It is my understanding that the State of Oregon has changed the state code to assist those of us trying to address our housing crisis but it is clear that it is not enough.

In the last Point in Time count, Newberg had 1,428 of persons were living in shelters, unsheltered locations, or couch surfing. This is one of the main reasons why we are looking at developing transitional housing. So far we have spent over 100K for architect and engineering fees - without ever putting a shovel in the ground. This bill could assist non-profits like ours to address one of our state's biggest needs. In addition, I'd love to see a network of organizations work together to share documents (Good Neighbor Agreements, 501c3 applications, By-laws, Program Agreements, etc.) so that each organization isn't trying to re-create the wheel. We have done many tours, scoured websites and had many conversations with people doing this work around the state - but it's been somewhat of a treasure hunt, not really sure where to look or where to get information.

Please vote yes to support HB 3482 so that organizations like ours can serve those most vulnerable.

Leslie Murray
North Valley Friends Church