

Greetings, Chair Fahey and Committee Members,

My name is Laura Dorneman and I live in North Portland. I am a member of Storyline and we are also 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.

Portland continues to face a severe housing crisis. As a health care provider, I have seen the impacts that unsafe housing has on a persons physical and mental health. ALL humans deserve safe, healthy housing. Many faith communities have excess land that could be used to build affordable housing (Portsmouth Union Church in my North Portland neighborhood is an excellent example) to help get our neighbors into safe, healthy housing.

Your action is crucial. Please approve the SB8 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,
Laura Dorneman, RN, BSN, CPHON