

Submitter: Diana White

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3482

March 17, 2023

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

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to providing Oregonians with housing solutions. I am a member of First United Methodist Church in Portland and have been part of a group dedicated to addressing the housing crisis in our community, we are in the planning stages to determine whether or how we can build affordable housing on Church land. We know that the housing crisis has grown out of multiple factors, including public policy failures to ensure enough affordable housing units and decades of marginalization of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color populations.

I am writing today to advocate for the full funding of HB3482 to provide resources for nonprofits, tribal communities, housing authorities, local governments, and faith communities such as ours.

You know Oregon's housing crisis well. I am gratified by the legislation passed to date. In addition, I am inspired by the way that nonprofits, including faith communities, are stepping up to address the crisis. We need help to get the work done. HB3482 will provide this help in two ways: 1) funding for predevelopment work and technical assistance. We have secured some funding to pay for a feasibility study, but that is only the first step. More funding is needed to complete predevelopment work. 2) Our project to date is managed by volunteers from our congregation. Though we have areas of expertise, none of us have the expertise to manage a project of this scope. We will be relying on housing developers who have a track record in building affordable housing. We understand this is a lengthy process. Having funding to support predevelopment and project management work will help ensure that housing units, which are so desperately needed, are built and available as soon as possible.

I hope you will support the work of ensuring that all Oregonians have more access to affordable housing. Please vote "aye" on HB3482.

Thank you for your service and thoughtful consideration.

Diana White

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