

# Gary Rifkin

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Greetings, Chair Fahey and Committee Members,

My name is Gary Rifkin and I live in Oak Grove in Clackamas County. I am a member of the Oak Grove United Methodist Church and I also participate 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.

Using church land to build affordable housing is a great way to lower the cost for so many Oregonians that can not afford housing at the current rental rates.

- Religious organizations **have available land** that can be used to build affordable housing
- There is a **huge cost savings** to building using faith land because we already own the land
- Faith land is **already zoned for residential**, in almost all cases
- Allowing faith communities to build affordable housing stabilizes our neighborhoods and is **an anti-displacement strategy**
- **Current land use regulations can be a lengthy process and add cost** to these projects (include your own experiences where applicable)  
Removing regulatory barriers for religious organizations to build on the land we already own will shorten the process of creating more housing supply in our neighborhoods and help leverage available local acreage!

Please do all you can to pass HB 2008 so Oregon can begin to resolve the housing crisis in Oregon.

Thank you,

Gary Rifkin