

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

For 20 years, I have been the Youth leader of Creator Lutheran Church in Clackamas, working in conjunction with six other faith communities as part of the SE Portland Youth Collective. Youth in Clackamas, Happy Valley, Milwaukie and SE Portland are strongly dedicated to finding ways to house everyone in our community as they wonder with anxiety whether they'll be able to afford housing themselves as they enter adulthood. On their behalf, I'm advocating 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.

Oregon's lack of housing and resulting housing crisis, especially for low income neighbors make it super important for nonprofits, faith communities, tribal communities, housing authorities, and local governments to be able to assist the state in building affordable housing on their developable land. But obstacles are numerous. HB 3482 offers funding and resources to ensure more of us can participate in the huge work of exploring avenues for more available housing.

HB 3482 provides pre-development support and technical assistance. Pre-development costs can cover a range of things from land surveys to community engagement efforts. Technical assistance through an experienced non-profit organization will play a crucial role in informing the public about the grant program and helping communities during project development.

Through the investments proposed in this bill, we can and will assist Oregon through providing more housing opportunities for those in most need around us. I hope you will join me in ensuring Oregonians have more access to affordable housing and give HB 3482 an "yes" vote.

Thank you for your commitment to providing Oregonians with housing solutions, and your thoughtful consideration of this bill,

Debi C. Stromberg  
Milwaukie, Or