

Submitter: Melissa Harkness
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2964

My name is Rev. Melissa Harkness. I serve Cherry Park United Methodist Church in SE Portland. We are older. We are smaller. We live in a neighborhood of young families and retirees. I have Seniors in my congregation who are one health crisis away from losing their housing.

We have the potential to make a huge impact in our community. At Cherry Park UMC we have a generous amount of unused land, and a vision to build low income Senior housing. We have been faithfully exploring, discerning, planning, and visioning. We are excited about the possibilities. Yet we, like many small faith communities, lack the initial funds for a feasibility study. Access to predevelopment funds would be game changing, not only for us, but for countless others in need of safe, affordable housing. It is vital that we pass HB 2964.
In Gratitude,
Rev. Melissa Harkness