

Greetings Senate Committee on Housing and Development,

My name is Mira Ayala and I live in Portland. I am a member of the Leaven Community and Salt and Light Lutheran Church 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.

I've lived in 8 different homes during my 9 years in Portland and have been pushed from place to place due to rising rents and buildings being sold to be flipped. I love my neighborhood (Cully!) and want to stay here because I work here and my son and I have strong community. I've heard stories from many other friends and neighbors who have been uprooted from this community and whose children have had to change schools, or who fear being displaced at any time. We need more options for safe, stable housing!

Your action is crucial. Please approve SB 8 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.

Sincerely,

Mira Ayala