

My name is Rev Heather Riggs, I live in unincorporated Clackamas County and am the Pastor of Oak Grove United Methodist Church and am a member of the Leaven Land and Housing Clackamas Cohort.

I fully support HB2008 which will help to stabilize our communities in Oregon and bring Oregonians home.

HB2008 is important to me and my community, not only because my church has neighbors who are houseless visiting our property and trying to sleep on our porch every week, but because members of my church who are retired and working families with kids cannot afford housing in our area. Some have even had to leave our church to find housing elsewhere. Especially during the pandemic I have talked to more and more neighbors who are recently houseless because the pandemic was the straw that finally broke their fragile financial situation. My church and many other churches in the area have land that we would love to be able to use to build affordable housing or provide transitional options such as Conestoga huts, but Clackamas County has been especially difficult to work with! We need of HB2008/SB8 to pass so that we can increase the stability and safety of our communities. As a Pastor, I already know how to build a supportive community that will make affordable housing on church land a healthy place. Let the Church be the church and love our neighbors in need!