

March 17, 2023

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

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to providing Oregonians with housing solutions.

As a congregation member of Ainsworth United Church of Christ in Portland, and a former State Housing Council Member I am dedicated to seeking housing justice as a human right. Ainsworth's Mission Statement is Rooted in God's love following Jesus, focused on justice- we are a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic church that believes like Jesus in serving the least of these. I am writing to you today to advocate for the full funding and passage of HB 3482 to provide resources for non-profits, faith communities, tribal authorities, housing authorities, and local governments the process of developing affordable housing on their lands.

Non-profits, faith communities, tribal authorities, housing authorities, and local governments are ready to assist the State with completing these projects, such as starting costs and lack of knowledge on housing development that are difficult to overcome alone. HB 3482 would help to circumvent these barriers by providing funding and resources to community entities to ensure Oregon has attainable housing available and our friends and neighbors can obtain stable housing.

HB 3482 provides resources in two crucial areas for these groups-pre-development support and technical assistance. First, this bill will provide financial support for pre-development in developing affordable housing. This funding can cover a range of costs from land surveys to community engagement efforts to build neighbor congregation approval. On their own, these costs can often total over \$100,000 and prevent from getting off the ground. Giving organizations access to pre-development will help to ensure that projects are able to get started without costs being a barrier. Second, HB 3482 will provide a resource to assist with project management. This would be done through an appointment of a non-profit organization with expertise in affordable housing development as well as the frameworks of community groups to guide communities through the development process. This organization will play a crucial role in informing the public about the availability of the grant program as well as serve as a resource in helping communities during project development.

Our faith-community has available land and has wanted to address the housing crisis since 2018 but due to the issues listed and barriers with City permit requirements, other building and sustainability requirements as well as the pandemic limitations has paused our progression until recently. Our congregation recently hired an architect to complete a feasibility analysis for the land we plan to build on and we know what type of housing can be built. Now we are continuing the analysis of next steps as outlined in HB 3482. Funding to help with further analysis would be a critical resolution for us to take these next steps to provide necessary housing reality.

As you know we're in the midst of a crisis that non-profits, faith communities, tribal authorities, housing authorities and local governments would like to help solve, but it cannot be done alone. We know that in making these investments through this bill, we can and will assist Oregon by 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 and safe housing and give HB 3482 an "aye" vote.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Judith Pitre

