



March 21, 2023

Representative Maxine Dexter
Chair, House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court St NE, H-283
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 3482

Dear Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Housing Alliance encourages you to support House Bill 3482, which will leverage the land owned by faith communities and other non-profit organizations to build new affordable homes.

Faith institutions and non-profits all across the state own property that they want to make available to build housing. By removing land acquisition from the cost of an affordable housing project, state resources can go much further and build more homes. Many faith communities and nonprofits are exploring this possibility, and others have already moved forward with affordable housing projects. The land owned by these organizations is often located in high-opportunity neighborhoods with high land values, where affordable housing developers would otherwise be unable to acquire property, and where low-income Oregonians would otherwise be priced-out of housing.

The Housing Alliance is a coalition of over 100 member organizations, including local jurisdictions, tenant organizations, grassroots community groups, homeless service providers, and affordable housing developers from across the state. From this broad range of positions within Oregon's affordable housing landscape, our members have overwhelmingly voted to endorse HB 3482.

HB 3482 will support faith communities and nonprofits that seek to use their own land to help solve our affordable housing crisis. Technical assistance and pre-development funds will remove barriers to scaling up this exciting movement, which has been growing here in Oregon and nationwide. We urge you to join the Oregon Housing Alliance in supporting passage of HB 3482.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Herrington".

Cameron Herrington
Director of Policy and Advocacy
cherrington@neighborhoodpartnerships.org