



March 21, 2023

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

My name is Britt Conroy, and I serve as Public Policy Director at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. Working with over 100 congregations, organizations, and interfaith partners, EMO works to improve the lives of Oregonians through housing and other direct services programs, through interfaith dialogue and through advocacy at our state and national capitols.

EMO fully supports HB 3482, -2.

HB 3482, -2 would unlock hundreds of acres for affordable housing across our state. EMO is proud to stand with Housing Oregon, the Oregon Housing Alliance and others in advancing legislation that would spur affordable housing development in rural, suburban and urban communities. HB 3482, -2 would make predevelopment funds available to Oregon tribes, housing authorities and nonprofits, including faith communities.

Places of worship across the state are eager to put their untaxed, underutilized land to use addressing Oregon's housing and homelessness crisis. These places of worship include St. Mathews Lutheran in Beaverton, Coos Bay Lutheran, First Presbyterian Church in Bend and Peace Presbyterian Church in Eugene.

Tonight, will be cold, with rain and snow falling in some parts of our state. Tonight, Oregonians without homes will sleep outside. Today, Oregon children's education and community ties will be disrupted as families move, looking to find housing where they can afford rent and utilities. Today, communities impacted by Oregon's wildfires, as we just heard, will continue to wait for housing.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 3482, -2 and for your efforts this session to address our housing and homelessness crisis.

Sincerely,

Britt Conroy
Public Policy Director
Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon