

Submitter: Sarah Loose

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3482

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

I'm writing today to urge you to support HB3482.

As an organizer in Multnomah County with the Leaven Community Land & Housing Coalition, I have the privilege of accompanying community groups and faith communities who are deeply dedicated to ensuring that everyone in our communities is able to get and stay housed. Day in and day out, I witness neighbors coming together with neighbors to organize for real and lasting solutions to the housing crisis.

I also work part-time as the Program Director for the Oregon Synod's Disaster and Climate Resilience program. In this work, I have the opportunity to collaborate with faith communities and community partners throughout the state of Oregon. As an active partner in the ongoing recovery from the 2020 wildfires, my colleagues and I serve on Unmet Needs tables with Long-Term Recovery Groups in multiple counties. Month after month, we hear about the stories and cases of fire-impacted families and individuals whose biggest barrier to a full recovery is the lack of affordable housing in their region.

In all these areas, rural and urban alike, there are faith communities eager to be a part of building more resilient communities – communities where everyone has a safe and affordable house to call home. Indeed, they are willing to put the land they steward towards building the housing that our state so desperately needs. But land and goodwill can only get these communities so far down that road. HB3482 will provide critical pre-development support and technical assistance that will allow these faith communities to turn these good intentions into actual homes.

Join these communities in taking a faithful step forward toward a future where all Oregonians can afford a place to call home. Support the full funding and passage of HB3482.