

Submitter: John Elizalde
On Behalf Of: First Unitarian PDX-Interfaith Alliance on Poverty
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

I am writing to support funding for HB 3482. This bill will support the faith community and other non-profits with pre-construction funding for affordable housing. These funds are critical to the planning and approval processes in local jurisdictions requiring moneys that faith communities just don't have on hand. The state housing crisis has the attention of advocates and people of good will state wide. Grassroots entities like faith communities don't have the 'cash on hand' to pay the extensive fees for reviews and licenses and permits and other pre-construction costs. HB 3482 fills that gap and allows the state to support these local efforts to mitigate our crisis.

Multiple statewide and local organizations such as the Oregon Housing Alliance and the Leaven Land and Housing Coalition have alerted us to the need for this supplemental support. We join with them to seek your approval of these funds as part of the state budget for the upcoming biennium.