

Submitter: Susan Abrams

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2964

Housing supply is the linchpin of our housing crisis - available land is so often snapped up by the highest bidder for as much profit as possible. Faith communities have land in communities that are stressed for affordable housing. But many faith communities are land rich and cash poor. Again and again we have seen faith communities hit a wall because they just can't cobble together the funds to push through the pre-development phase of the project (which includes necessary steps, such as feasibility studies and community engagement). This bill would allow for small grants to help faith communities get over this pre-development hurdle, and make a home for their neighbors. This would ultimately be a small investment for the state, to unlock an outsize impact in communities across Oregon.

There are currently approximately 200 acres of faith land ready to be unlocked across Oregon, assessed at over \$108 million on the traditional market. 40 congregations owning that land are currently stuck at the feasibility stage that this bill would address. If this bill passes, many households stand a chance at future access to affordable housing that does not exist today!