

Submitter: David Groff
On Behalf Of: Leaven Community Land and Housing
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2964

Chairperson Marsh, Vice chairpersons Anderson and Breese-Iverson and members of the committee.

My name is David Groff. My address is 4205 SE Ramona Street Portland, Oregon. I am a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Portland and an active participant in the Interfaith Alliance on Poverty and Leaven Community Land and Housing. I am testifying today as an individual citizen and person of faith.

Oregon's current housing crisis requires the mobilization of all available resources. One resource that has been only sparingly used so far is land held by faith communities across the state. Some congregations are willing to build affordable housing on their underutilized land but lack the funds to cover the predevelopment costs. HB2964 strengthens the existing OHCS Predevelopment Program by authorizing grants as well as loans. Faith communities are often land rich but funding poor. HB2964 would provide them with what they need to cover the predevelopment costs for building housing on their property. Leaven Community Land and Housing has identified more than sixty acres that congregations would make available for development if predevelopment grants became available. I therefore strongly urge you to pass HB2964 so that this resource can be used to help meet our pressing need for affordable housing.