

Submitter: Steve Cromer  
On Behalf Of: as a resident of downtown Portland  
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2964

My wife and I have lived in downtown Portland for nine years, We have seen the many folks experiencing homelessness throughout the city, growing through these years. These people have difficult life circumstances, made worse by high housing costs and a lack of affordable places to live. People can also find themselves one job loss, one medical emergency or one mental health crises away from becoming unhoused. I work at LiftUP food pantry and have seen many of these people suffering.

This bill would allow for small grants to help faith communities get over pre-development hurdles, 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. Our church, First United Methodist of Portland, has been working to help ease the housing crisis in our city. Help us pass this bill so that we can live out our faith and make homes for these children of God.