

Submitter: Ethel Gullette

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2964

TO: House Committee on Housing and Homelessness

FROM: Ethel Gullette

SUBJECT: Yes on HB 2964

Dear Chair Marsh, Co-Vice Chair Anderson, Co-Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ethel Gullette, I live in Beaverton, Oregon, and I am writing in strong support of HB 2964

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to providing Oregonians with affordable housing solutions.

As a member of First Unitarian Church of Portland and the Sacred Organizing Coalition, I am dedicated to a belief in the worth and dignity of every human being, and to the belief that healthy communities need stable, affordable housing, but we know that basic need is unreachable for so many Oregonians. I applaud and support faith communities that are prepared to step up and close this gap. Faith land is often in coveted urban areas where land is scarce and the need for housing is great. However, because faith communities are often cash poor and land rich, they often lack the money to do the upfront feasibility and community engagement work that readies their land for a developer to come in and build.

HB 2964 offers a solution to this hurdle. It codifies and broadens eligibility in the OHCS Predevelopment Program and provides a grant option for those entities that are cash-poor and land rich. A grant option can be critical to groups like faith communities.

This bill will provide a needed option to cover a range of things from land surveys to community engagement efforts to building neighborhood approval. On their own, these costs can often total upwards of \$100,000 and prevent projects from getting off the ground. Giving organizations access to pre-development grants will help to ensure that projects are able to move forward.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,
Ethel Gullette