

Submitter: Diana White

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2964

I strongly support HB 2964. As a member of Portland's First United Methodist Church, I have been involved in interfaith efforts to increase affordable housing in Portland. At my church, we have been considering how we can best address this crisis. We do not have enough decent places for people to live and existing housing typically is not affordable, particularly for low wage workers and their families, older adults, people with physical, disabilities, or those who struggle with mental health or substance abuse issues. I know of many churches who want to use their land to build housing, but it is difficult to navigate all the preplanning, permitting, and working with the surrounding community – all of these things must happen before development can actually begin. With small grants of predevelopment funds, faith communities and other nonprofit organizations could fulfill dreams of housing our neighbors; it would be a major turning point in our communities – we could finally turn the tide on the crisis of affordable housing. Please vote yes on HB 2964!