

Greetings, Chair Fahey and Committee Members,

My name is Rev Heather Riggs and I live in unincorporated Clackamas County - Oak Grove. I am the Pastor of Oak Grove United Methodist and we are also participants in the Leaven Community Land and Housing Coalition, a coalition of faith communities in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington County, leveraging our land and resources so that all Oregonians can come home.

Working families in my congregation have experienced houselessness in the past 2 years, even before the pandemic and many of my elderly members struggle to afford market rate housing. We would love to leverage our church land to build affordable housing in our neighborhood, but zoning severely limits what we can do.

Your action is crucial. Please approve the HB 2008 so that faith communities across the state of Oregon can build affordable housing on our land with as few barriers as possible.

Our neighbors need your help, creativity and support in leveraging every option and financing stream to begin solving the crisis of housing instability and homelessness in our city and county.

Sincerely,

Rev. Heather Riggs