

Greetings, Chair Fahey and Committee Members,

My name is Ellen Burns and I live in Gladstone. I am a member of King of Kings Lutheran Church in unincorporated Clackamas County. King of Kings is also a participant 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 have a home.

Our congregation is greatly troubled by the houseless people living on the street, under bridges, and in their cars. We tried several years ago to host car camping in our church parking lot but encountered overwhelming odds from zoning restrictions. We believe it is our responsibility to help our less fortunate neighbors. We, and other churches, have land that can be used for housing, reducing that cost of building. Rising rents and home prices, the Covid19 crisis, and the consequent economic burdens have increased the already great need for affordable housing.

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 all of our help, creativity and support in leveraging every option and financing stream to begin solving the crisis of housing instability and homelessness in our communities.

Respectfully
Ellen Burns