

Chair Fahey and Committee Members-

My name is Marty Jones and I live just inside of Multnomah County. I am a member of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, which is in Clackamas County.

Nearly every day, I see messages online in regard how much of a mess [literal] Metro Portland has become. Typically these messages come from Privileged members of our society who seem to think that the Homeless choose to live in tents by the side of a road, or in landscaped areas along the freeways, keeping many of their belongings in grocery baskets or black plastic bags, in a pile with other plastic bags. Those who are Privileged [I include myself] are so accustomed to houses, apartments with closets and some form of storage, that they can't imagine a person forced onto the side of the road by the horrid system of values our society cultivates.

I will be 69 this summer. My wife and I live in the house that I built for my parents in 1976. We moved my Mom to a condo, ourselves into her house, and our youngest child on the same day in 1985. I worked for the Bureau of Buildings in Portland for 14 years as a Building Plans Examiner, and a brief stint in Salem. I continually encountered architects who were trying to find ways to create low-cost housing in Metro Portland. Until recently, the Building Code made low-cost housing impossible. With State approval of Tiny Houses, the goal can be reached.

I consider myself Privileged; in that I have a PERS pension as well as Social Security. My wife works part-time for David Douglas School District, and I continue to work as an illustrator and Code consultant. My daughter and her daughter were homeless for a period of time while my son-in-law was driving cross-country in an 18-wheeler. One winter, the family at 'home' spent a Colorado winter in a small RV we were able to buy for them, living in a KOA campground. I vowed that I would never permit one of my children to be homeless. So my wife and I pay their rent in Colorado. My daughter is a COVID victim.

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.

Regards, Marty Jones