

Greetings, Chair Jama and Committee Members,

My name is Lorin Darst. I live in Hubbard, Oregon, and I serve as a Pastor primarily to people in Canby, Molalla and surrounding areas. I'm deeply committed to the people here, in the Portland Metro area, and people across the state. I grew up in Southern Oregon where my mother still lives.

I worry for my mother's future. She is not in the best of health, and financially, she has "just enough" to survive. The reason she has "enough" is because she has chosen to live in an RV trailer out in the country. At her age, and with her health, this is very unsafe. If ever she becomes unable to climb stairs, I have no idea where she will be able to live. She can't afford to live in town in Central Point, and she certainly can't afford to live up here in the Portland Metro area near me.

Affordable housing would dramatically improve her quality of life and, quite frankly, might even save her life.

My Christian, Lutheran faith calls me to work tirelessly for the sake of those who are impoverished, marginalized, and left to their own devices by a society that cares more about the Almighty Dollar than it does about the Humanity of those around us. Especially, those who are struggling.

In light of that, I'm asking with great urgency that you approve SB8. This would allow faith communities across the state of Oregon to build affordable housing while limiting many of the barriers that would slow down or completely impede this critical and life-saving work.

Our neighbors, our families, and many others need your help, vision and assistance in leveraging every possible resource to make real progress in solving the crisis of unstable housing and homelessness throughout our beautiful state. Please approve SB8.

Respectfully,
Rev. Lorin Darst
Pastor, Macksburg Lutheran Church (ELCA), Canby, OR