

Submitter: Ellen Burns

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness

Measure: HB3482

Chair Dexter, Co-Vice Chair Gamba, Co-Vice Chair Helfrich, and Members of the Committee,

Good morning. My name is Ellen Burns; I live in Gladstone Oregon and am a member of King of Kings Lutheran Church. I would like to attend the meeting this morning, but on Tuesday mornings I deliver boxes of food to people in need for the Clackamas Service Center. I have delivered food to people living in tents and in a pick-up truck. I deliver to people living in hotels, supported by Clackamas County. Mostly I deliver to people who, without food assistance, would go hungry in order to pay their rent.

I am writing to advocate for the full funding and passage of HB 3482 to provide resources for non-profits, faith communities, tribal communities, housing authorities and local governments in the process of developing affordable housing on their property.

The crisis of houselessness is driven by a lack of affordable housing. The people in my church have born witness to this problem for years. We are searching for a mission driven solution using our church property to help alleviate this problem in some small way. We desire to assist the state with this crisis through building affordable housing on our developable land, but there are obstacles to completing this project, such as starting costs and lack of knowledge on housing development, that are difficult to overcome alone. HB 3482 would help to circumvent these barriers by providing funding and resources for pre-development support and technical assistance.

We, and other entities interested in providing housing, need “up-front” money to establish feasibility for our project and ensure that the project gets started in the most positive way. We need a partner with expertise in affordable housing to assist with project management. HB 3482 will provide funding for these critical resources.

Faith communities, non-profits, tribal communities, housing authorities, and local governments would like to help solve the housing crisis, but we cannot do it on our own. By making the investments outlined in this bill, we can provide more housing opportunities for our neighbors most in need. I urge you to vote “yes” on HB 3482 to open the door to more affordable housing.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to providing Oregonians with housing

solutions.

Ellen Burns