

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

My name is Alyssa Walker Keller , and I am an organizer for the Leaven Community Land and Housing Coalition in East Multnomah County. I am writing in full support of the 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.

HB 3482 would provide resources in two critical ways for the congregations in East Multnomah county that I am working with- pre-development support and technical assistance. First, this bill will provide financial support for pre-development costs involved in developing affordable housing and community spaces. This funding could cover the incredibly expensive preliminary costs many congregations can't afford when exploring how to make their land available; this could mean the difference in whether they choose to explore developing affordable housing. East Multnomah County is a vibrant, diverse community where many young families move in an attempt to find affordable housing in the metro area. The reality is that most of our congregations in Gresham, Rockwood, Fairview and Troutdale cannot afford the \$100,000+ in land studies and pre-development, because their congregations may have land, but they are not wealthy. Access to pre-development dollars will help to ensure that projects are able to get started without costs being a barrier.

HB 3482 will also provide a resource to assist with project management. It makes possible the community organizing and engagement efforts that Leaven Land and Housing coalition is engaged with in East Multnomah county. This vital work creates neighborhood support for affordable housing projects on faith community land. Pre-development work and community engagement go a long way in creating a welcoming community!

Thank you again for your time and thoughtful consideration- yes to HB 3482!

Sincerely,

Alyssa Walker Keller