

Submitter: David Groff
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Co-Chairs Senator Steiner and Representative Sanchez, Vice-chairs Senator Girod and Representatives Romberg and Smith,

Thank you for your efforts to address and solve Oregon's housing and homelessness crisis. I am a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and am active in the Interfaith Alliance on poverty, a coalition of thirteen Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant faith communities. I am also a board member of Operation Nightwatch, a non-profit that provides hospitality to unhoused and other low-income people in downtown Portland. I am writing to you today in support of HB3482 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.

Your committee knows all too well the housing challenges we are facing. To overcome them we need to mobilize every resource at our disposal. Many faith communities and other non-profits across the state are willing to build affordable housing on their property. Several years ago, the city of Portland modified zoning policies to permit faith communities and other non-profits to undertake such projects. Some have already done so. But it hasn't been easy for them.

Passing and funding HB3482 would facilitate housing construction by faith communities and non-profits by providing pre-development support and technical assistance. Funding the bill would help these organizations to cover the onerous start-up costs. The technical assistance through a non-profit organization appointed under the terms of the bill would provide much needed project management assistance. This organization would also inform the public about the availability of funding under HD3482.

Many faith communities and other non-profits consider it part of their mission to help ease and ultimately overcome our current crisis. I urge you to support them in their efforts by passing and funding HB3482.

David Groff