

Submitter: Doug Boleyn
On Behalf Of: Spirit of Life Lutheran Church
Committee: House Committee On Housing and Homelessness
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2964

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to providing Oregonians with affordable housing solutions.

My name is Doug Boleyn. As Property Chairman of the new Spirit of Life Lutheran Church in Gladstone, we are committed to taking action for solutions to our community's housing crisis.

The Spirit of Life community supports HB 2964, which would make public funds available to assist non-profits in investigating and developing specific planning for projects built on their own properties and meet a critical public housing need.

Spirit of Life was formed by a merger of two churches. As a result, the church now has property in the Oak Grove area of unincorporated Clackamas County which is now available for beneficial use in the community. The Spirit of Life congregation wishes that the property be committed for moderate- to low-income housing for our neighbors in need.

Historically, both the King of Kings and St. Stephen congregations have used their church buildings and land to serve those without homes and property. Both churches hosted and welcomed refugees in the 1970's, and in the 2000's provided emergency shelter and support to families with children either working with Northwest Housing Alternatives and/or as participants in the S.O.N. (Sheltering our Neighbor) program by providing sheltering space to families on a weekly basis.

Ideally, Spirit of Life would like to see its land developed into affordable housing for vulnerable communities which are compatible with the neighborhood, such as elderly and families. However, we do not have the means to do a feasibility study which covers all the necessary bases.

Determining feasibility and navigating the many issues surrounding converting specific properties into affordable housing takes time and resources. Determining availability of public and private funding sources, investigating partnerships with other non-profit entities with common interests, working through zoning and Code issues, determining necessary health and social services support, researching financing vehicles and packages, and discerning neighborhood reaction and acceptance - are all necessary activities that take time and money.

Therefore, we support this legislation as important in meeting a critical public need and provide safe, affordable housing within communities throughout Oregon including

our own.

Thanks for your time and support for HB 2964!