

Submitter: Melissa Harkness

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Housing and Development

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2964

My name is Rev. Melissa Harkness. I serve Cherry Park United Methodist Church in SE

Portland. We are older. We are smaller. We live in a neighborhood of young families and

retirees. I have Seniors in my congregation who are one health crisis away from losing their housing.

We have the potential to make a huge impact in our community. At Cherry Park UMC we have

a generous amount of unused land, and a vision to build low income Senior housing.

We have

been faithfully exploring, discerning, planning, and visioning. We are excited about the

possibilities. Yet we, like many small faith communities, lack the initial funds for a feasibility

study. Access to predevelopment funds would be game changing, not only for us, but for

countless others in need of safe, affordable housing. It is vital that we pass HB 2964.

In Gratitude,

Rev. Melissa Harkness