



Office of Equity and Human Rights

Realizing Equity. Enhancing the City of Portland.

February 15, 2013

**Portland Commission
On Disability**

Executive Committee

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Re: HB 2890 – to repeal the ban on inclusionary zoning

Dear Senators and Representatives of the Oregon Legislature,

Greetings from the Portland Commission on Disability (PCoD). Our mission is to guide the City to ensure that it is a more universally accessible city for all. PCoD advises Portland's City Council, as well as other agencies and bureaus within the City, on matters of importance to people with disabilities. We are writing today to urge your support for House Bill 2890 to repeal the ban on Inclusionary Zoning.

As part of our work, PCoD focuses on the equitable distribution of accessible and affordable housing for people with disabilities. After having spent several years assessing and monitoring the supply and development of accessible housing options in Portland – in partnership with the Institute on Aging at Portland State University, Housing Land Advocates, and other community partners and stakeholders – we are confident in our assessment that the existing, largely incentive-reliant system of development available to our City is not meeting the current need for accessible housing. With our rapidly aging population and increasing numbers of community-residing people with disabilities, the need for accessible and affordable housing is expected to continue to grow, in Portland and throughout Oregon. We believe that the current policies will increasingly fail to adequately meet the needs of our seniors and people with disabilities going forward if changes to current policies are not made.

We feel strongly that inclusionary zoning should be an available option for Oregon's municipalities and local governments. Rather than being precluded by state law from utilizing this tool, which is particularly beneficial for the creation of affordable housing, local jurisdictions should be allowed to utilize inclusionary zoning in their efforts to effectively plan for the future needs of their communities.

We strongly encourage you to affirmatively respond to the pleas of housing advocates across our state and restore the option for local governments to choose to use inclusionary zoning as a means for ensuring housing equity for our vulnerable populations and marginalized communities.

Thank you for considering this request,

Joe VanderVeer
Chair, Portland Commission on Disability

Dante J. James, Director

Charlie Hales, Mayor