



February 23, 2015

To: House Committee On Human Services and Housing

Fr: Elders in Action

Re: HB 2564

My name is JoAnn Herrigel and I am representing the Elders in Action Commission. The Elders in Action Commission is a senior advocacy council that advises the City of Portland, Multnomah County and Multnomah County Aging, Disabilities and Veterans Services on issues affecting older adults in Multnomah County. As such, we support affordable, high quality health care, housing, nutrition and transportation services for older adults and adults with disabilities.

The Elders in Action Commission enthusiastically supports the passage of HB 2564, lifting the ban on inclusionary housing. Lifting this ban will provide local jurisdictions with access to an additional tool to increase affordable housing.

As part of Elders in Action's Personal Advocate Program, we provide free, personalized, problem-solving assistance and support to people age 60 and older and people with disabilities. We receive about 250 calls a month from older adults in the Portland tri-county area. Half of these are from individuals seeking housing. Some are being evicted for no cause, some are having a hard time paying their rent because it exceeds their total monthly income and others are homeless and looking for a place to live.

I will share one example:

An 80 year old gentleman called this past week asking for housing information. He stated that his current income is \$1,000/month but the rent at his apartment building is \$1,100. He has depleted his savings and now has one month to find

another place to live. An on line search for housing options at half his income, or \$500, resulted in NO options available within 60 days – if at all.

The Portland metro region's senior population (65 +) is expected to more than double within the next 15 years. As that number grows, so will the number of low income seniors. This is our grandparents. In some cases, this is us!

Please lift the ban on Inclusionary Housing. We need all the tools available to meet this growing housing crisis. We thank you for this opportunity to testify today.