



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

February 23, 2015

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
House Committee on Human Services and Housing
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room D
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for House Bill 2564

Dear Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee:

We write to urge your support of House Bill 2564, which would repeal the preemption on inclusionary zoning and allow local communities to determine whether or not to have an inclusionary zoning policy.

Inclusionary zoning is a practical tool that allows local jurisdictions to incentivize and require that affordable housing units be built along with market-rate housing. Inclusionary zoning is not a one-size-fits-all solution. It allows communities to customize a housing policy that meets the needs of their residents. This tool is an effective way to help ensure low and moderate income individuals and families have more choices about where they live, which schools their children attend, and how to remain close to friends, family and services.

A lack of affordable homes means many families are unable to live in resource rich communities and are segregated to more distressed areas. These areas are often far from jobs, concentrating poverty and causing traffic congestion and high commuting costs. Inclusionary zoning policies can help change this challenging community dynamic.

HB 2564 will enable local jurisdictions to work with developers and communities to find balanced approaches to providing affordable housing. We urge your support for HB 2564.

Sincerely,

Charlie Hales
Mayor

Dan Saltzman
Commissioner

Amanda Fritz
Commissioner

Steve Novick
Commissioner

Nick Fish
Commissioner