

**Testimony of Councilor Sam Chase
In Support of House Bill 2564
Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood
May 19, 2015**



Chair Gelser and Members of the Committee:

My apologies for not being able to appear today in person. Thank you very much for considering these comments.

As you know, Metro is the regional government of the Portland metropolitan area. We provide a broad range of public services including land use and transportation planning, solid waste and recycling operations, management of parks and natural areas, and operation of major visitor facilities like the Oregon Convention Center and the Oregon Zoo.

I serve as the elected Metro Councilor for District 5, which includes Northwest and North Portland, portions of Southwest and Northeast Portland, plus the city of Maywood Park and part of Washington County. As a longtime advocate for affordable housing, I am heartened to see the topic of inclusionary zoning being discussed and am confident that you will hear a wide range of community voices today speaking in support of this proposal.

The Metro Council supports HB 2564. We have long supported efforts to ensure that housing choices are available to people of all incomes in every community in our region. We believe inclusionary zoning is an important tool that can help local governments to achieve this goal.

We know from other cities like Seattle that inclusionary zoning has been a key factor in the creation of thousands of units of affordable housing. Metro's Equitable Development program is working with our cities and counties now to help build capacity and bring more resources to assist them with addressing the challenges of providing a wide range of housing for the people who live in our communities. The problem of affordable, safe, quality housing for our region's diverse residents is a growing problem and yet resources to address this problem are diminishing. Inclusionary zoning is one critical policy lever that helps us ensure that housing is available for those who need it.

On behalf of the Metro Council, I urge your support of HB 2564.