

I am Marih Alyn-Claire of Tenants Priced Out from Portland. I am writing to ask you to support allowing cities to use inclusionary zoning as a local housing solution.

Seniors and other low income tenants all over our city are receiving no-cause evictions even after 20 plus years of stable tenancy for reasons of: sale of property, requesting mold clean-up and repairs be made, etc.

Landlords are evicting good tenants just to replace them with higher paying tenants (many from out of town). Local rents have been raised hundreds of dollars beyond the subsidy amounts for Section 8 vouchers and once stable residents are being priced out of their apartments.

This is a crisis because there are few affordable housing replacement opportunities available and people are put on 2-5 year wait-lists.

As a result, hundreds of seniors, families with children and the working poor are being displaced and becoming homeless. Women and children and people of color are growing in numbers in the homeless camps and the few shelters are out of capacity to receive more people.

Those rent burdened tenants who are able to remain in their apartments are cutting back on food, medical, heat and other necessities in order to keep up the increasing rent payments. These tenants who are on fixed and low incomes are the first ones to become homeless.

We need housing everyone can afford and that is accessible to schools, jobs, and transportation.

Many low-income renters rely on public transportation and have to shop for their families, pick up their kids from school on time etc.

This housing crisis is a growing threat to the lives of our seniors, disabled, and low income populations and the stability of our communities. We need protective legislation passed immediately as an emergency measure until we can get things under control. Please do the right thing for our citizens now.

Thank you.

Inclusionary zoning can help increase housing opportunity by providing cities with an important tool to create more affordable units and diverse communities.

We must act now to increase the number of affordable units, and inclusionary zoning is an important local solution that Oregon should allow. I hope that you will support these measures, and I thank you for your service.

Sincerely,
Marih Alyn-Claire