

2016-01-29

Chair Gelser and members of the committee:

I am Eric Z. Eisberg of Community Alliance of Tenants from Portland. I am writing to ask you to support allowing cities to use inclusionary zoning as a local housing solution.

I work at a grocery co-op in NW Portland, and couldn't dream of renting in that neighborhood. My commute is an hour and a half long by bus, and thirty minutes by car. I've seen a number of my friends and colleagues pushed out of their homes, and in my time in Portland I've watched thriving communities be destroyed in favor of expensive apartments. By adopting inclusionary zoning policies, we can ensure that communities can stay in tact, and people can have the housing security they need to keep their families safe and secure.

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,
Eric Z. Eisberg