

2016-01-30

Chair Gelser and members of the committee:

I am Jason Nova of from PORTLAND. I am writing to ask you to support allowing cities to use inclusionary zoning as a local housing solution.

Portland and other larger cities in Oregon are facing a unprecedented housing crisis that is being aggravated by foreign and out of state investors buying properties then using no cause evictions to mass evict long time good tenants to renovate, demo and raise rents.

Oregon is also seeing more and more landlords using no-cause evictions as their go to eviction because they do not have to give any reason and can use this in a retaliatory manner with no chance of a tenant winning in court.

Now is the time for lawmakers to act boldly and stand up for tenants.

Oregon has the weakest tenant protections on the west coast and Oregon lawmakers need to stand bold for tenants and stop being beholden to industry lobbyists.

Who does the legislature serve? Voters or big corporate interests?

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,  
Jason Nova