

2016-01-31

Chair Gelser and members of the committee:

I am Zoe Klingmann of [organization-193] from Portland. I am writing to ask you to support allowing cities to use inclusionary zoning as a local housing solution.

Until recently I was a college student at Lewis & Clark, with many friends at PSU. Pricier living for us meant less money for books; pricier living in the central city meant living further away from campus and spending half your life in a car or on a bus. Now that we've graduated, my friends are spread all around the outskirts of the city, from Sandy to Tualitan, even though we commute all the way into downtown. We're the lucky ones, with 4-year degrees and the prospect of higher-paying jobs in a few years--but nevertheless I'm worried that I'll never have the salary necessary to live the "walkable" lifestyle. If the jobs, the education, the services, are downtown, it's essential that there be housing nearby that people can afford--if there's not, the supposed "liveability" of our city is limited to the wealthy. The people who serve your lunch and clean your office can't be expected to spend 3 hours on a bus or in a polluting car every day.

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,  
Zoe Klingmann