

2016-01-31

Chair Gelser and members of the committee:

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

I have seen too many friends and co-workers leave the city, faced with impossible rent increases. I see too many people who were once marginally now housed living outside.

I don't think we think of ourselves as a state that summarily kicks out the poor and the elderly the moment the wealthy develop a taste for a given city or neighborhood, but in our laws, that's what we are. And that's what's unfolding in Portland right now. We can and we must do better. This bill gets us closer.

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,
Damian Miller