



82ND AVENUE IMPROVEMENT COALITION
Portland, Oregon

Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood

Senator Sara Gelsler
Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson
Senator Jeff Kruse
Senator Michael Dembrow
Senator Alan Olsen

House Committee on Human Services and Housing

Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer
Representative Knute Buehler
Representative Paul Evans
Representative Joe Gallegos
Representative Cedric Hayden
Representative Julie Parrish
Representative Carla Piluso
Representative Duane Stark
Representative Kathleen Taylor

February 1, 2016

Dear Senators and Representatives,

We appreciate your commitment to the people of Oregon and we wish you a successful legislative session. We are writing to express our support for the current proposals to repeal Oregon's prohibition on the use of inclusionary zoning.

Oregon is one of only two states in the nation with such a law, and the reason why other states have not followed our lead is clear: Inclusionary Zoning works well to provide housing options in the hundreds of jurisdictions nationwide where it is in place.

Portland's 82nd Avenue is a vibrant and diverse community where people of all incomes live and work. It is a place where people of modest means can still afford to start a small business and send their children to a quality public school. It's a place where communities of color can maintain their cultural identities and relationships while pursuing opportunity for themselves and their families.

But our community faces a serious danger in the severe and unrestrained escalation in the cost of housing, which is displacing our most economically vulnerable neighbors and permanently changing the character of our city. The impacts of this housing crisis on a community like ours, in particular, are brutal and irreversible.

Change is coming and Oregon's population is growing. For neighborhoods like ours, inclusionary zoning is one way to protect the community we love while ensuring that as we grow our future will be one of inclusion and opportunity for everyone.

Best Wishes,

Brian Wong
Chair