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Chair Keny-Guyer and Members of the Committee,

My name is Steven Goldberg, my address is 3525 SE Brooklyn St., Portland 97202, and I am a leader with Metropolitan Alliance for Common Good (MACG). We are here today to urge a strong vote in favor of repealing the ban on Inclusionary Zoning, a vital tool for expanding cities and preserving the diversity, and quality of life of our treasured communities.

Today I want to share with you the story of a young leader in MACG who has experienced housing barriers her entire adult life, at a time when she should be able to focus on developing her career and her strengths and talents, exploring her identity as an adult, and building new relationships without the fear of becoming homeless for reasons out of her control. She was not able to come to Salem today to speak herself. This is her story.

“My name is Emily Davis, I am 23 years old and I am a MACG leader, and a member of St. Andrew Catholic Church, a founding MACG member institution.

I was born and raised in Portland and like many in Portland have been struggling with housing since the age of 18 when my family moved out of state. I was lucky enough to receive a great education and have skills to work, yet housing has been an increasing struggle. I was homeless last year after an accident left me in a wheelchair and my only viable options for assisted housing included "first come, first serve" youth shelters with very limited space and limited personal safety. I am currently working close to full time as a preschool teacher but am always one paycheck away from being homeless.

There isn't enough housing, and the housing that is available is almost always unaffordable or years down the line. The current housing situation is unsustainable. One of the largest groups affected by homelessness is youth under 25, with the foster system being the major feeder to homeless youth in Portland. If there were an increase in affordable housing and access to housing education, this would change. “

Inclusionary Zoning is an essential tool for developing and sustaining healthy, diverse communities not just in Portland, but in any city in the state, particularly in light of the population growth predicted for Oregon. As a state, we need to trust our local lawmakers to make the right decisions for their communities, based on the feedback of their constituents. We urge you to repeal the ban on Inclusionary Zoning, for the present and future health, diversity, and well-being of everyone.