

November 9, 2016

By email to: cctestimony@portlandoregon.gov

Dear Mayor Hales and Commissioners,

I write on behalf of our 20 Portland member nonprofit organizations to reiterate our strong support for the Residential Infill Project proposal. Oregon Opportunity Network supports all aspects of the current proposal; the only thing we would like to see changed is to add real incentives for deeper affordability. Our members, as experienced, mission-driven nonprofit housing providers, are eager to help shape this policy as it moves forward, to maximize affordable rental and homeownership options in all parts of Portland.

The families our members serve are currently shut out of nearly every neighborhood in Portland. Now is not the time to dial back our collective commitment to providing equitable housing opportunities in all parts of our City. We need every possible tool to help address Portland's housing crisis. Of course duplexes and garden apartments can harmoniously co-exist with single-family homes; and why not support gentle infill like granny flats? We need all types and all sizes of housing in all price ranges, and this proposal is an important part of the solution to our housing crisis.

For all the voices that you are hearing wanting their neighborhood to stay the same or expressing fear of change, know there are many others who welcome the "missing middle" as a way to provide more housing options in our neighborhoods. I want to voice my support personally as someone who has lived in Portland since 1988, and is currently a Hillsdale resident. Longtime homeowners like myself have nothing to fear from this proposal. On the contrary, I strongly believe it will improve the fabric and character of our neighborhoods and community. For those of us with adult children who would like to stay in Portland, but are saddled with huge college debt – smaller, flexible housing options just might make first-time homeownership a possibility. And many of us hoping to downsize into retirement would benefit from senior-friendly options like a granny cottage, duplex or a flat within a larger home.

Most important, I want to share the privilege of living in our wonderful Portland neighborhoods. I don't want to see young families, renters, and communities of color excluded from our historic and high-opportunity areas. "Missing middle housing" is an important part of the solution for our city's future growth. Please support this thoughtful, sensible proposal so we can move forward toward a Portland that is welcoming and accessible to all.

Sincerely,



Ruth Adkins
Policy Director