



Abundant and Stable Homes for All

In solidarity against harmful rhetoric and false choices, for a holistic suite of policy decisions for safe, affordable housing for all Oregonians

Renters and advocates for housing abundance, stability, and affordability stand together to expose false choices in the housing policy debate. Landlord lobby front groups are using every tool, meme, and attack they can think of to drive a wedge between grassroots advocacy groups that are gaining power and influence.

We cannot allow harmful and divisive wedge tactics to hide the truth about effective housing policy: Real solutions to address our housing crisis are many, and should be implemented together to achieve best outcomes for people of all incomes and backgrounds in our communities.

Portlanders can and should debate the proper level of renter protections – something that we will be free to do once we lift the state's ban on rent stabilization. We should also debate concrete ways to ensure that our city keeps adding enough homes as its population grows. These goals are by no means mutually exclusive, as the landlord lobby deceptively claims in an attempt to divide renters and housing advocates. Advancing renters' rights immediately is necessary to prevent displacement and economic duress. Allowing more housing is necessary to contain the current disaster and provide long-term relief.

Any housing advocate who understands the injustices forced on people of color, low-income people, and other marginalized groups through local housing and zoning policies will also understand the need for solutions tailored to redress these wrongs. Housing is a human right. To advance and protect this right, we need to use every tool at our disposal, rather than the myopic, singular focus of landlord lobby groups.

We, the undersigned, understand that advancing renter's rights, increasing housing supply, and achieving fair & equitable housing outcomes are complementary policies, not mutually-exclusive false choices. To successfully provide housing options to meet the needs of all Oregonians, here are eight of the many policy tools we encourage all Portlanders to support:

- Strengthening, codifying, and enforcing renter's rights to help tenants stay in their homes at sustainable rents they can afford
- Enforcing and monitoring Portland's new inclusionary housing policy
- Allowing more housing development, especially in well-connected and amenity-rich areas
- Re-legalizing more small-scale forms of infill housing in all residential neighborhoods

- Creating new dedicated sources of revenue to fund permanently and deeply affordable housing
- Expanding community land trusts, access to public land, down payment assistance, and other programs that offer first-time homebuyer opportunities at below market value
- Reforming the mortgage interest deduction and other housing subsidies to be fairer for low- and middle- income Oregonians
- Eliminating parking minimums while expanding access to affordable transportation

Despite the current crisis, this is an exciting time for housing policy -- decisions in the next 10 months will shape our city and state for decades. That's exactly why Portland cannot afford to be distracted by the malicious and cynical propaganda of landlord lobby groups. Stand with all of us and support ALL of these solutions for our families, friends, and communities:

Housing Land Advocates
Oregon Walks
Portland for Everyone
Portlanders for Parking Reform
Portland Tenants United
Proud Ground

Please email madeline@friends.org to sign on.