Architectural
Resources Group

720 SW Washington Street, Suite 300
Portland, Oregon 97205

arg-pnw.com

June 29, 2017

Historic Landmarks Commission
Portland, Oregon

Re: Letter of Support for Portland Building – Case# LU17-153413 HRMAD

Commissioners:

As a member of the project design team, I am writing to express ARG's support for the Portland Building Reconstruction Project currently before you. Though ARG was not part of the internal review process whereby more traditional rehabilitative approaches were vetted and deemed infeasible, we find the arguments presented by other team members regarding the necessity of pursuing a rainscreen approach to be compelling, especially in light of project goals regarding schedule, budget, watertightness and minimal maintenance. We believe that installing a unitized rainscreen system will ensure the building's ongoing watertightness and thus its long-term survival.

We also agree with Hillary Adam's explanations in the June 26 staff report as to how the project meets each of the relevant Section 33.846.060.G historic resource review criteria, and feel those explanations reflect the considerable effort that has been made to pursue the rainscreen approach in a manner that best preserves the spirit and defining characteristics of the building. In particular, we are recommending that the rainscreen system be installed such that it incurs as little damage as possible to the existing concrete structure, in order to best comply with historic resource review criterion 33.846.060.G.9, which stipulates that "*New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic resource and its environment would be unimpaired."* Should technology emerge in the future (possibly the distant future) that enables the Portland Building's original materials to be modified directly in pursuit of the same building performance goals, the bulk of those materials will be extant and ready for rehabilitation.

I have one final point of clarification. In addition to being a Principal at ARG, I serve on the Restore Oregon Board of Directors, where my duties include chairing the organization's Policy and Advocacy Committee. In that role, I would like to clarify that Restore Oregon has not taken a formal position either for or against the Portland Building Reconstruction Project as currently proposed. As such, Dan Everhart's verbal testimony at the June 26 HLC hearing should be considered his individual opinion, as no formal organizational stance has been taken.

Sincerely,

Matthew M. Davis, AICP
Principal