

Aaron Brown

#299562 | May 7, 2021

Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Design Overlay Zone Amendments, Recommended Draft**

I am writing in to ask the Portland City Council to please pass the Design Overlay Zone Amendments along with the pro-housing amendments proposed by Portland: Neighbors Welcome. There are simply too many overlapping problems in the city of portland that would all be slightly improved by increasing the number of housing in our dense, affluent, desirable neighborhoods - the climate crisis, the housing affordability crisis, the systemic and pernicious dynamics of racial and class-based segregation among them - for the city to create a new mechanism for grumpy wealthy landowning Portlanders to have new mechanisms to fight new housing tooth and nail. Having just purchased my first home in the St Johns neighborhood, I want my friends and family and Portlanders of all incomes to be able to be my neighbors - but we simply won't get there if we continue to allow for more opportunities for people who don't want more housing to spend their spare time critiquing every single bad project in a bad faith effort to slow housing growth. I also oppose any amendments that would allow the Design Commission to add delay and uncertainty to the approval of new buildings with housing or to shrink those buildings below what's allowed in code.

Testimony is presented without formatting.