

To the Mayor and Council,

Thank you for taking testimony on this project. Creating an objective and points-based system of design is a great step to enabling standard and fair building practices and removing barriers to the housing that Portlanders desperately need.

I support the DOZA project as it currently stands and the amendments called for by Portland: Neighbors Welcome. I oppose the arbitrary design requirements called for by affluent neighborhoods. I also oppose any amendments that would allow the Design Commission to delay and add uncertainty to the approval of new buildings with housing or to shrink those buildings below what's allowed in code. Portland has a clear mandate from the Anti-Displacement Action Plan and our 2035 Comprehensive Plan-- build more housing, both market-rate and affordable, especially in these high opportunity neighborhoods.

As a young renter, I have watched my prospects of ever buying a home in Portland get slimmer and slimmer. I would like to continue to call this place home-- it's close to my family, work, the outdoors, and I have a wonderful community of people here. This project will unclog the pipe to build the housing we need in great neighborhoods like Sellwood and Lents, which will help keep young people like me living and working in Portland. I encourage this council to examine the connection between abundant and dense housing, and social equity. The Anti-Displacement Action Plan identifies many affluent neighborhoods as places that need more affordable and abundant housing. Any robust anti-displacement strategy should include measures that ease the burden of building this housing. DOZA, while it doesn't cover all neighborhoods, helps serve this purpose.

I encourage Council to listen to affordable housing developers who support the clear and objective Design Standards, which will make it easier to add affordable housing to those neighborhoods. Portlanders of all incomes should be able to live in our amenity-rich neighborhoods.

Thank you for considering testimony on this important project. Please pass the Design Overlay Zone Amendments project.