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

I support design standards recommended by SMILE to ensure a vibrant Sellwood-Moreland and other Portland neighborhoods. New buildings with dull and blocky designs, maximizing internal square footage at the expense of external character, are on the rise so fast in the neighborhood. I live right next to a historic building that will soon look like like the two brand-new blocky buildings that have gone up across the street just in the past 2 years, unless City Council takes action now to make developers work more creatively for the sake of Portland's past and future. Neighbors and visitors spend a lot of time outdoors in the neighborhood. Outdoor time is important for physical and mental health. Some of the design trends in the neighborhood result in boring buildings that block out light, strip away trees, and end 100 years of the unique and special neighborhood character. Of course the trend is toward density, but Portland will regret not ensuring better design standards. SMILE has made recommendations that will help.

Testimony is presented without formatting.