

Patrick & Carolyn Brunett

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

We are writing in support of BETTER BUILDING DESIGN in Portland. The aesthetics of new, large scale buildings are essential to maintaining the quality of life here in Portland. So many newer buildings employ a box-like design, intended to maximize return on investment, that is reminiscent of massive apartment blocks in the old Soviet Union. Case in point, the enormous, sterile and imposing apartment complex built on the former Boys and Girls Club site on SE Milwaukie near Bybee. Nothing about that building is human scale and it is an assault to the senses. Portland can do better than that. We specifically advocate for the design standards recommended by SMILE to be added to DOZA, mandating better building design in Sellwood-Moreland and throughout the city. Upper-level setbacks with a distinct base, middle and top, chamfered corners, courtyards and other features bring life to new construction. The Public Library building on SE Milwaukie Avenue is a perfect example of human-scale, functional and aesthetically-pleasing construction. It complements the neighborhood rather than disrupting it. Thank you. Patrick and Carolyn Brunett

Testimony is presented without formatting.