

Miriam Erb

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

My name is Miriam Erb Aragon, I'm Hispanic and have lived in the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood for 8 years. I was a board member of the neighborhood association for 4 years and now work with the Land Use Committee. I believe the SMILE neighborhood association has made our community more fair, more diverse, and more willing to work together to deal with change and growth, rather than encourage factions to oppose each other. It is through our neighborhood association that we have made our Board diverse and representative by actively seeking people of different backgrounds and experiences. We have representatives of homeowners and renters, of different ethnicities, and of different economic backgrounds. We have welcomed the building of affordable housing and a homeless shelter in our area. Participating in our neighborhood association, is where I learned how necessary it is to speak to your representatives directly. That is why I'm testifying today in support of the Sellwood-Moreland Main Street Design Standards and DOZA design standards. The injustices and systemic racism of the past have to be dealt with and Portland is trying to do that. However, it is wise to realize that we have a better chance of succeeding if we also acknowledge and value the positive influences and contributions of those who came before us. Sellwood-Moreland's feel of a small town is in part because of its main streets and we feel that asking new development to value architectural standards and incorporate some of them in their new construction is not only respectful of our history but smart so that Portland neighborhoods can grow and absorb density while still having that livability that is so critical in our city today.

Testimony is presented without formatting.