

Megan Hoagland

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

I oppose volunteer 'design reviews' being a blocker to building new buildings. Public comment should be allowed but a project should not be stopped by a volunteer design panel. People with excess time, in wealthier areas, will use this 'design review board' to stop progress in their neighborhoods if it does not personally benefit them. Who will be missing from such volunteer groups will be a diverse group from varying classes and ethnicities. My mother participated in the building of a tiny house community in St. Johns. It has been built and housed, with great success. A small group of very vocal well off NIMBYs protested for months. Had they had veto power, they would have used it to kill the project. They merely were a vocal minority and, thank goodness, weren't able to have their way to the detriment of the greater good. I oppose volunteer design reviews.

Testimony is presented without formatting.