

J R Merrick

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

May 12, 2021 Dear Decision Makers, Years in the making and once upon time encouraging, DOZA is no longer supportable. 1. DOZA is like a cheap donut. Sugary on the outside, hollow in the middle and not good for your health. Why? DOZA is masquerading as “good design” when by its 65 foot height exemptions, it misses almost every building it is purported to guide. 2. DOZA doesn’t do it for design. The goals of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan and the hard work of neighbors to guide the PSC and Portland planning to respect their neighborhood character and culture is simply steam rolled by a cacophony of ideological dog whistles such as “density is good” For whom exactly? 3. “Density” is an amorphous word and DOZA is not density well done. Characteristics that make places that people love and find worthy of preserving (therefore durable and sustainable) require buildings and neighborhoods that have a coherent vision for the inhabitants - not DOZA donuts paving the way for mindless human filing cabinets. 4. DOZA tried but, by ignoring extensive public input provided, and responding to pro-development slogans, has failed. State land use Goal 1 requires meaningful engagement by those affected (not investors but inhabitants) in land use decisions. Tried but was undercut. 5. DOZA lost its way. Its original purpose statement was promising. It is now twisted beyond recognition by BPS and simply brushed aside the 1000s of hours of citizen planner volunteer time that was initiated in many neighborhoods to rescue themselves from density-do planning. 6. In the last 20 years our city planners and leaders have lost the vision of walkable centers surrounding by stepped down density and the preservation of our crown jewel street car single family neighborhoods, public spaces, and parks. We have raised up snake oil libertarian unplanners and embraced pro-density investors promising affordability to set the table for a rude future that will Portland undo. DOZA. Your opposition to this irresponsible project in its present form is appreciated.

Testimony is presented without formatting.