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

I am supportive of DOZA, with modifications to make it more applicable and equitable for all Portlanders. The lifeblood of Portland's livable neighborhoods are our historic streetcar era main streets, and DOZA should protect and enhance these assets by making design standards, guidelines, and/or review applicable to 45' height limits typical in these zones. Those of us who live in inner neighborhoods recognize the value of these neighborhoods, but we also need to recognize that neighbors who live further out deserve more design focus, not less. In those neighborhoods with less resources, we need more attention to the design elements that can provide healthier, more sustainable, and overall better commercial centers. I support, and ask you to incorporate, PDX Main Street's top 5 policy recommendations into DOZA. As well, I remain extremely concerned about how some ostensibly "neighbor" "welcome" groups are deliberately misrepresenting, ignoring, or otherwise fabricating "facts" to unethically promote their agenda for low quality, high quantity housing. Portland can and should grow while maintaining our what is special about this city, but to do we need more design thinking, not less.

Testimony is presented without formatting.