

# Amber Schley Iragui

**#329751 | June 7, 2021**

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

As a resident of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood, and as a native SE Portlander, I wholeheartedly support Amendment 3, the Main Street Design Standards Bundle to enhance and retain the unique qualities of Sellwood's commercial streets. When I was a student at Benson High School in the 1990s, I took the bus after school to work at a family-run business on Milwaukie Blvd in Westmoreland. I grew to love the community, the old buildings and unique flavor of the neighborhood. I watched as the Hollywood movie "Come See the Paradise" was filmed at Moreland Theatre in 1990--because the architecture of the neighborhood retained a beautiful example of the 1940s-50s setting of the film. When I moved my family to the neighborhood in 2014 I was thrilled that it was so similar to what I experienced in my teens (and also to find that our the community newspaper, "The Bee," was still being published). It breaks my heart to see new construction that doesn't reflect the unique community and architecture of the Sellwood-Moreland neighborhood. Some of the new buildings feel incongruous and fit awkwardly in with the surrounding architecture, as though there was no consideration to the overall flavor of the neighborhood. I am not against new buildings! I am happy to have more businesses and restaurants and housing in Sellwood, I just would like them to respect the community in which they are being built. I hope these Amendments will be added to the design standards for new construction on our main streets!

Testimony is presented without formatting.