

Jonathan Greenwood

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Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **2045 Portland Housing Needs Analysis, Recommended Draft**

Hello, I am writing to say I advocate for the Inner Eastside for All proposal by Portland: Neighbors Welcome. The vision is straightforward: to create a diverse, mixed-income, walkable, and transit-rich community by allowing street-scale apartment buildings within the Inner Eastside, fostering a vibrant urban fabric from roughly 12th to 60th, Fremont to Powell. This evolution aligns with Portland's growth and sustainability goals. The decision in 1981 to restrict apartment buildings in inner Southeast Portland led to housing shortages and rent hikes, exacerbating citywide challenges in subsequent decades. Presently, about half of the city's 'unregulated affordable' homes reside in these restricted zones, susceptible to gentrification pressures due to high demand. However, this doesn't need to be our future. By lifting the ban on new apartment buildings in most close-in areas, we can alleviate rent pressures, offer diverse housing options, and foster a community that thrives economically, socially, and environmentally. This proposal garnered support from various stakeholders, including affordable housing providers, environmental advocates, and transportation reformers, all unified by the vision of a richly diverse and inclusive Inner Eastside. The Housing Needs Analysis presents a starting point, but action is needed. We have capacity for housing, but we need to go further: our current zoning does not do enough to support population growth and needed housing formation. This upzoning initiative isn't just a proposal; it's a solution supported by a broad coalition. Let's embrace a Portland where equitable housing is not just a goal but a reality, where the inner east side stands as a beacon of diversity and accessibility for all residents. Allowing these areas to gradually introduce apartment buildings up to four stories with corner stores not only expands housing opportunities but also accelerates the development of mixed-income residences. It's time for Portland to rectify past decisions, embrace inclusivity, and elevate our inner neighborhoods to new heights. This step isn't just about housing; it's about shaping a better, more equitable Portland for all. Personally, as a resident of Portland since 2008, I see this as a greatly needed change to our city which will create more vibrant, accessible, and equitable communities. Please consider this proposal. Thank you, Jonathan Greenwood

Testimony is presented without formatting.