



Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
sent via email to psc@portlandoregon.gov

March 12, 2015

RE: Draft Portland Comprehensive Plan

Dear Chair Baugh and Planning and Sustainability Commissioners:

Over the past two decades, the Coalition for a Livable Future (CLF) has united a diverse group of organizations to promote healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities in the Portland metro region. Through the use of research, policy analysis, and convening, CLF supports communities to take action for equitable development, prosperous and livable communities, and a healthy environment.

CLF has partnered and worked with the City of Portland on numerous policies and plans, and we know that the city is committed to creating a livable city for all Portlanders. Nevertheless, we are concerned that the current draft of the Comprehensive Plan does not highlight the urgency nor adequately address the issues related to economic displacement that have increasingly affected low-income families and communities of color in Portland.

The Comprehensive Plan's vision for improving Portland's neighborhoods will come with a devastating cost to Portlanders if preemptive measures and structures are not in place to address issues of affordability and access that such improvements will inherently bring. Deliberate and early efforts to address these issues will stabilize communities and prevent our most vulnerable populations from experiencing the distressing impacts that displacement brings upon children, families, and communities.

Many local organizations have presented thoughtful, intelligent solutions to strengthen the Comprehensive Plan so that it can better prepare Portland to address future displacement. CLF recommends that strong anti-displacement strategies be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan and that the general language around anti-displacement be bolstered so that it is recognized as a priority.

The current shortage of over 23,000 affordable homes for families with incomes below 50% median family income in Multnomah County underscores the urgency around affordability and access in Portland. The Comprehensive Plan presents an important opportunity to address major burdens experienced by our most vulnerable communities and prevent a Portland that is only accessible to those who can afford it. Together we can create a healthy, accessible, well-connected, and economically vibrant Portland for everyone.

Thank you for the consideration of our comments,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mara Gross", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mara Gross, Executive Director
Coalition for a Livable Future