



June 23, 2015

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
1900 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97201

RE: Comprehensive Plan Anti-displacement Policies and Growth Scenario Report

Dear Chair Baugh and commission members,

Upstream Public Health thanks you for considering amendments to the comprehensive plan that will support community stability and mitigate against displacement. We appreciate the considerable effort that staff and commission members have put in to respond to community concerns, and we encourage you all to support the amendments that will be presented by Chair Baugh and Commissioner Tallmadge.

Upstream works to improve the physical, social, and economic environments to reduce health disparities and ensure that all Oregonians have opportunities for good health. As you know, Portland's famed livability is only experienced by some of the people in our region as others struggle to remain in their homes, find reliable transportation to work, or secure a high quality education for their children. Each of these challenges has a significant impact on the health and well-being of individuals and our community as a whole. As families are priced out of their homes, children experience interruptions in their education, critical and long-standing social networks are diminished or completely broken, and families incur financial costs including those related to moving and new transportation needs. These burdens impact health in the short- and the long-term, with many health impacts following children well into adulthood.

We have the opportunity to reduce these impacts and repair damage done to our communities by exclusionary policies and disinvestment. When the City creates value through infrastructure or program investments or by supporting new development, that value should serve to reduce gaps in opportunity and help reduce health inequities, reversing some of the harmful trends we have lived through in recent years.

The amendments presented this evening by Chair Baugh and Commissioner Tallmadge reflect thoughtful collaboration between the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability staff and community based organizations. These amendments help address the City's need – emphasized in the Growth Scenarios Report – to carefully address existing inequities even as much of our future growth is planned for well-served areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Heidi Guenin
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