

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
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Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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February 8, 2016

Mayor Hales and Portland City Commissioners
Portland City Hall
1211 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

RE: Support for Deconstruction Resolution

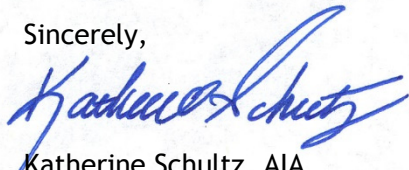
Mayor Hales and Commissioners:

I am writing to express our support for the upcoming resolution that directs the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) to develop code language that would require deconstruction for houses built in or before 1916 or designated as a historic resource. As a commission we are responsible for the stewardship, development and maintenance of the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Climate Action Plan. Deconstruction is supported in both of these plans and helps mitigate the impacts associated with the removal of buildings as our city grows. The method of deconstruction and the reuse of the materials salvaged from these projects results in a healthier, more sustainable city.

On January 26th BPS staff (Alisa Kane and Shawn Wood) briefed our commission on the proposed resolution. We are encouraged by this first step that begins to address the full lifecycle impacts of a building - in this case the end of life. The materials that go into a building and how they are managed at the end of a building's life are becoming increasingly important. Reuse helps avoid the carbon impacts associated with disposal and production of new materials.

Given the benefits of deconstruction and salvage it is tempting to move the requirement threshold to include more houses and even commercial structures. However, we recognize this as a reasonable first step that will require careful thought and industry scaling as it progresses. We were also encouraged about the work-force training opportunities associated with making this requirement successful and equitable. As code language is drafted and the logistical details surface, we would encourage BPS staff to continue their dialogue with the Planning and Sustainability Commission.

Sincerely,



Katherine Schultz, AIA
Chair



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