

August 7, 2016

Daniel Salomon

Collins Circle Apartments, APT 118

1701 SW Columbia Street

Goose Hollow

Portland, OR 97201

I am a published environmental author with a Master of Arts degree in theological research along with a graduate certificate in science and religion and a Bachelors of Science degree with concentrations in Biology, Environmental Studies and Conflict Analysis/Dispute Resolution and a Naturalist Certificate. I am also a neurodiverse human on the autism spectrum.

Now a resident of Goose Hollow in Portland, I relocated to Portland from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area with my parents, Sherry and Steve Salomon, who are also submitting testimony. We wish to be part of an in-person green community which is also livable, has human scale and is accessibly connected to the Natural World.

I understand the population increase in Portland and want others who are moving to Portland for the same reasons to have the same opportunity which I have enjoyed. A balance between welcoming new Portlanders, while keeping all the things which make Portland worth moving to, is possible. This balance includes access to sustainable lifestyle opportunities, human livability and scalability, community, natural beauty and an accessible connection to the Natural World, when we maintain height limits for new buildings in the City of Portland.

Such a balance is possible when we support the Architectural Heritage Center's request that no heights be raised in historic districts; when we honor our West End neighbors and their requests for buildings which are no higher than 100 feet; when we make sure that no building should ever block the view of the arches of the Vista Bridge on SW Jefferson Street; when we honor the request that the public needs to be able to see Mount Hood from the Vista Bridge requiring that 1000 feet below the timberline remain visible, as it is today, for future generations.

An increasing chorus of interdisciplinary scholars and concerned citizens has concerns that building higher buildings are not carbon neutral. I support this critique that building higher is a flawed solution to mitigating climate change at best. Higher buildings also are scientifically proven to undermine community and increase consumerism. A higher building, because it is not human scale, discourages people from wanting to live in high-density neighborhoods in the city, especially families and instead to move-out to the suburbs, rural locales and small towns. People gravitating to low and middle rise apartments in high-density neighbors in the city is still more environmentally sustainable at the local and global levels than people living in single family dwellings in the suburbs, small towns and rural locales. There is a strong green infrastructure which already exists in Portland, comprised of preserved mature trees, an expansive urban forest and canopy, accessible public transportation, rain gardens, pocket

parks, larger city parks and other open green spaces, farmers markets, community gardens, walkability, bikeability, public meeting places and historical landmarks which are fully utilized instead of being demolished. This especially supports low and middle rise apartments in the city.

A balance between mitigating climate change and protecting human dignity can be found in this way.