

# PORTLAND COMMISSION ON DISABILITY



March 16, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The following comments are from the Portland Commission on Disability's Accessibility in the Built Environment Committee in response to the City of Portland's Better Housing by Design [Discussion Draft staff report](#).

- We feel strongly that the Discussion Draft report has identified important guiding principles pertaining to people with disabilities. In particular, the report has done a commendable job calling out the importance of high quality housing in multi-dwelling zones that advance human health and equity. We hope and expect that the disability community will remain a focus in subsequent policies.
- The requirement for visitable units is a start for improving the housing quality for people of all ages and abilities. However, visitable housing should be considered a policy entry point, not a final solution to housing accessible. We suggest continuing to explore ways to require and incentivize accessible and/or universally designed housing. To that end, we would encourage the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to consider requiring all housing under the Better Housing by Design Policies/multi-dwelling zone update to be visitable.
- We are pleased that "indoor" community facilities can be used to meet "outdoor area" requirements. Please note that some people in mobility devices (and people, in general) would prefer to have covered space or be indoors for more than half of the year in Portland.

Sincerely,

Portland Commission on Disability's Accessibility in the Built Environment Committee

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