



March 12, 2018

Planning Commission  
City of St. Helens  
P.O. Box 278  
St. Helens, OR 97051

**Re: HLA and FHCO Comments on File No. PD.1.18**

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is submitted jointly by Housing Land Advocates (HLA) and the Fair Housing Council of Oregon (FHCO). Both HLA and FHCO are non-profit organizations that advocate for land use policies and practices that ensure an adequate and appropriate supply of affordable housing for all Oregonians. FHCO's interests relate to a jurisdiction's obligation to affirmatively further fair housing. Please include these comments in the record for the above-referenced proposed amendment.

As you may know, all amendments to the Comprehensive Plan Map and Zoning map must comply with the Statewide Planning Goals. ORS 197.175(2)(a). Although the attached staff report refers to Goal 10 findings, it does not relate its findings back to the Housing Needs Analysis or Building Lands inventory. The statement listed is that this planned development would allow for more residential development because of increased flexibility. It does not provide information about the number or types of housing currently allowed, what would be allowed under the planned development, and what is actually proposed.

When a decision is made affecting the residential land supply, the City must refer to its Housing Needs Analysis and Buildable Land Inventory (BLI) to show that an adequate number of needed housing units (both housing type and affordability level) will be supported by the residential land supply after enactment of the proposed change.

Even when a proposal increases the residential land supply, the City must show that it is adding needed residential zones. The City must demonstrate that its actions do not leave it with less than



adequate residential land supplies in the types, locations, and affordability ranges affected. *See Mulford v. Town of Lakeview*, 36 Or LUBA 715, 731 (1999) (rezoning residential land for industrial uses); *Gresham v. Fairview*, 3 Or LUBA 219 (same); see also, *Home Builders Assn. of Lane County v. City of Eugene*, 41 Or LUBA 370, 422 (2002) (subjecting Goal 10 inventories to tree and waterway protection zones of indefinite quantities and locations). Only with a complete analysis showing any gain in needed housing as compared to the BLI can housing advocates and planners understand whether the City is achieving its goals through code amendments.

HLA and FHCO urge the Commission to defer adoption of the proposed amendment until Goal 10 findings can be made. Thank you for your consideration. Please provide written notice of your decision to, FHCO, c/o Louise Dix, at 1221 SW Yamhill Street, #305, Portland, OR 97205 and HLA, c/o Jennifer Bragar, at 121 SW Morrison Street, Suite 1850, Portland, OR 97204. Please feel free to email Louise Dix at [ldix@fhco.org](mailto:ldix@fhco.org) or reach her by phone at (541) 951-0667.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louise Dix".

Louise Dix  
AFFH Specialist  
Fair Housing Council of Oregon

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Bragar".

Jennifer Bragar, President  
Housing Land Advocates

cc: Gordon Howard ([gordon.howard@state.or.us](mailto:gordon.howard@state.or.us))