Housing Land Advocates

HLA's comments in response to the September 12, 2012 *Oregonian* Editorial "Portland Apartments with No Parking: Wishing Away Cars Isn't Good Policy."

Housing Land Advocates, a nonprofit organization, encourages land use policies supporting affordable, equitable housing and the development of sustainable communities. We write to address the potential effect of Portland's policy waiving on-site parking requirements for developments near transit on people with mobility impairments ("Wishing away cars in Portland," Sept. 12). Waiving on-site parking requirements reduces the costs of housing, expands housing choice and encourages the use of active transportation and public transit.

This policy does not currently account for the transportation needs of people with mobility impairments. It fails to ensure that new housing will be accessible to people with disabilities. Ignoring transportation needs of the disability community could effectively exclude them from this housing, creating inequitable neighborhoods.

Portland's residential neighborhoods should be accessible for all residents. HLA invites the city to participate in a discussion as to how land use policies can produce an equitable distribution of housing opportunities for all residents, including full access to transit-rich areas.

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