



Oct. 24, 2023

Dear City of Portland Planning Commissioners,

On behalf of The Intertwine Alliance, we urge you to please reject proposals in the Housing Regulatory Relief Package that suspend Green Roof and Bird-Safe Glazing Requirements until 2029. We do not believe that rolling back these important environmental protections will do anything to relieve the housing crisis, but will contribute to the climate crisis.

The Intertwine Alliance is the Portland region's nature coalition, advocating for parks, trails, greenspace and equitable access to nature. Our 80+ partners are public agencies, nonprofit organizations and private businesses.

The Intertwine Alliance aligns with our colleagues in affordable housing and transportation for maximum benefit to our communities. We recognize houselessness in Portland as a human crisis, and support prioritizing solutions and investments that address root causes. We do NOT believe these solutions need to come at the expense of the environment (causing even more inequities, difficulty and pain for our most vulnerable communities). Instead, we urge you to consider real solutions to the housing and houselessness crisis, as laid out by the Here Together Coalition in their [2023 roadmap](#), and the recommendations of other housing experts.

Portland's Green Roof Requirement was nationally recognized at the time of adoption for reflecting Portland's commitment to leading on environmental sustainability. Green roofs reduce runoff, protect water quality, reduce heating and cooling costs, reduce urban heat island impacts and can provide habitat benefits. Portland's bird-safe glazing requirements help reduce window collisions, one of biggest causes of bird deaths in North America, which result in upwards of one billion bird deaths each year. Bird-friendly design strategies often also overlap with strategies to increase energy efficiency in buildings.

Again, we haven't seen any data that suspending these important standards will actually increase affordable housing. We urge you to go a different direction.

Thank you for your time.

Tara Wilkinson, Co-Director
The Intertwine Alliance

