



MAYOR KEITH WILSON

May 12, 2025

Joint Committee on Transportation
900 Court St NE, HR F
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Gorsek and McLain, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Portland, I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 1182.

The work of Albina Vision Trust is essential to ensure that some of Portland's most marginalized communities are meaningfully included in the redevelopment of the Albina neighborhood. Historically, the Albina neighborhood was home to 80 percent of Portland's Black population. This was a vibrant community that was systematically displaced by harmful urban renewal policies. Redlining practices, followed by the demolition of thousands of homes, allowed for the development of infrastructure projects like Interstate 5 (I-5), the Veterans Memorial Coliseum, and a 10.5-acre Portland Public Schools site, further fracturing the neighborhood and displacing many families.

Albina Vision Trust has made significant strides in their efforts to restore the Albina community in recent years. By centering the voices and needs of those historically displaced, their work aims to uplift a strong community framework. In 2023, they broke ground on a 94-unit affordable housing development that will provide culturally specific, on-site services. The city strongly supports these efforts, recognizing the importance of developing more affordable housing to ensure everyone has a place to call home, and restoring communities that have been harmed by gentrification. This is a critical step toward community revitalization, but this is only the beginning. Additionally, Albina Vision Trust is partnering with the Oregon Department of Transportation on the I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project, a major initiative to tunnel the highway beneath a seismically sound cover. The project's highway cover over I-5 will create new community spaces on top for future development and is also expected to have surplus properties that are necessary for project construction but no longer needed upon project completion. Reconnecting the upper and lower Albina neighborhoods that were fractured by I-5 is a vital step in repairing generations of harm and restoring the community structure of this historic district.

The passage of Senate Bill 1182 is a major milestone in advancing partnership efforts and the necessary and successful scope correction of the I-5 Rose Quarter Project that culminated in January of 2022 as convened by past-Governor Brown. At that time, it was recognized that ownership of the highway cover structure itself would remain with ODOT, but that the principles of

restorative justice must inform any future land development process. By giving ODOT the important authority to grant, sell, or lease surplus property from the I-5 Rose Quarter Project, this legislation creates an avenue to facilitate community led development and restore the Albina neighborhood. I look forward to seeing the progress that Albina Vision Trust will continue to make on behalf of Portlanders. For these reasons, I urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keith" and last name "Wilson" clearly distinguishable.

Keith Wilson

Mayor of Portland