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ON: Residential Redesignations

FILE NO: MA-13-2

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**Metropolitan Affordable
Housing Corporation**

"Building Communities through Community Building"

November 19, 2013

To: Eugene/Lane County Joint Planning Commission
From: Richard Herman, Executive Director
Subject: Public Hearing Testimony

I am speaking in support of the re-designation of the former Naval Reserve Site for more multi-family housing and specifically for this site becoming part of the City of Eugene's land bank program for future affordable housing. This site is ideally located near schools, public transportation, and a wide range of community services.

I am also speaking in support of working closely and early on with the Jefferson Westside Neighbors Association. I know from conversations I had with them over the past few years they have a strong interest in the development of affordable multi-generational family housing in our community. I know they are also interested in creating a model demonstrating how affordable housing could be built with the support and endorsement of neighborhood associations.

Last year Metropolitan Affordable Housing (Metro) completed 56 units of affordable housing in our Willakenzie Crossing Community on Willakenzie Road. We met early on and often with the Harlow Neighborhood Association, the neighboring Willakenzie Grange Hall, and other neighboring organizations. When we had our Grand Opening two-years after our initial design, Jennifer Yeh, chair of the Harlow Neighbors' Association, welcomed Metro and our residents into the neighborhood. On the day of our grand opening, Susan Noah, the Oregon State Grange Master, sponsored an ice cream social to make residents feel welcome. Metro knows engaging Neighborhoods in developing affordable housing encourages a sense of ownership.

I would encourage the planning commission to leverage the commitment and interest of the Jefferson Westside Neighbors in participating in the process of creating a quality development on the former Naval Reserve Site that will serve as a long-term asset to the neighborhood and our community.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Herman
Executive Director