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December 4, 2016

Mayor Charlie Hales
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Steve Novick
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Dan Saltzman
1221 SW 4th Avenue
Portland OR 97204

Dear Portland City Council ~

I write to urge you not to purchase The Ellington.

The property was built using public resources, and has a long and somewhat ugly history of inadequate management. Its physical condition is questionable. With respect, PHB is not equipped to provide the kind of asset management befitting a public owner, especially for such a troubled asset.

In my judgment, the property can be considered naturally affordable and thus is already accessible to lower income Portlanders. There is no pressing reason to act quickly to “preserve” it.

The price seems much too high given publicly available facts and would consume far too much of the bond proceeds. We were promised new production and that is what you should focus on.

While I no longer work in Portland, I remain a homeowner, taxpayer, and very concerned and knowledgeable constituent. I am familiar with this property and believe for these and other reasons that it would be a mistake for the City to purchase it.

You have demonstrated your strong interest in solving the housing crisis, and for that I thank you. Please do not spend precious resources on this property.

Very sincerely,

Margaret Van Vliet
Former Oregon Housing Director; PHB Director; HAP (Home Forward) COO

C: Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler