



I'm Margaret Davis, a Portland resident who works with the grassroots group United Neighborhoods for Reform. Our responsible-growth and antidemolition effort has been endorsed by 43 neighborhood associations.

HB2007 would throw many more units of viable, affordable housing in the landfill as teardown builders would be further incentivized to redevelop lots with single-family homes into multiunit projects—*always* more expensive. The provisions of HB 2007 entail a sweeping unzoning statewide, erasing decades of careful land-use planning and local determination. It is a travesty the bill is sold as “affordable housing.” The cheapest, “greenest” house is the one already there.

Demolition removes a viable affordable house from our landscape forever, most often leaving amid clouds of toxic dust (see above), exposing anyone within 400 feet to hazardous materials such as lead and asbestos. Before 1978, a gallon of paint could contain 15 pounds of lead. There is no safe level of lead in kids according to the Centers for Disease Control.

From a recent investigative story by the Philadelphia Inquirer (http://www.philly.com/philly/news/special_packages/toxic-city/philadelphia-lead-soil-fishtown-construction-dust.html?mobi=true):

“A child who inhales lead dust faces more danger than one who swallows dirt because dust has a more direct path to the brain, experts say.”

“‘Ingestion is bad,’ said Richard Pepino, an environmental toxicology expert at the University of Pennsylvania. ‘Inhalation is worse.’”

Real affordable housing happens through serious local investment and subsidy—let’s do that instead of accelerating the destruction. And let’s not even get near to passing a bill such as this that increases demolitions beyond already record-breaking levels before we control the plume of hazardous materials that causes irreversible damage to people and pollutes the environment.