

I am writing to demand the House vote down HB 2001.

While I understand the need for more housing, especially affordable housing in Portland – this bill will do more to diminish the livability of our strong, single-family neighborhoods – the very owners who help this city pay for services through our property taxes, while not in one bit helping with affordable housing in our city. I'm also against the City of Portland's version of this change to single-family zoning that is figuring out how to implement as we speak. I will be adding a voice against multi-units being allowed again in single-family areas.

Density is somewhat palatable on large, main avenues. It is not in the middle of a single-family home block where it adds more cars, traffic, more people and more turnover. I grew up in an urban, single-family neighborhood that positively shaped my youth. In college and in the beginning of my professional career I not only shared housing, but also lived in dense housing complexes, with a lot of turnover, noise and safety concerns. It was not a good experience.

I have finally been fortunate enough to live in a great, close-in Portland neighborhood, all single-family homes and few rentals. I am very lucky. Most of my neighbors are raising young families or have already raised their kids and near retirement. We're a community and are fortunate that we can walk to stores, public transit, our library and more. For my wife and I - our Portland home is our oasis from the stress of our jobs, the growing Portland traffic and density that is impacting this city. Our home is an investment, an important part of our retirement portfolio and we'd like to stay, but changes like adding huge apartment complexes near us with little to no parking have affected our investment and our neighborhood. Similarly, HB 2001 would negatively impact homeownership even more.

It's time to give homeowners their rights back and keep density where it belongs- on the main avenues – and with parking for each unit. We are still stinging from Portland allowing this and will continue to fight to keep density out of our fantastic neighborhoods. Vote no on HB 2001.

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