

Dear Committee Members

I am writing to register my disapproval for HB 2001.

I am a resident of Northeast Portland since 1973 and I can't help wondering if once again the decisions being made are in the best interest of the folks who live here, or if they are being made for investors who don't live here. Over the years I watched as decisions were made that tore the heart out of our communities to appease corporate/investor interest. Where is the interest in long-term family livability? Where is community involvement?

I can endorse the need for housing and I recognize a certain economy of scale to multi-resident structures. But our existing zoning capacity/density and height allowances provide capacity for the next 20 years. Instead, the purpose of this bill appears to be a sop to investors. It does nothing to increase affordability, much less livability.

I expect Oregon's planning to focus on the needs of our families, not on policies to appease corporate greed. Like all communities, Oregon is struggling to fill the void left when the federal government made investment and financing decisions that penalize the poor and middle class in an effort to further "privatize" another aspect of life. Can't we recognize the problem for what it is and stop throwing money at the private sector in the hopes that somehow they'll solve the problem? They haven't so far and they won't in the future. It's not in their interests. Their interests are short-term and profit-driven.

Instead housing policy needs to be long-term and provide family homes that stabilize our economy and our way of life. Give our families the financing and tax credits they need to build the housing that will support them through the years. This bill does nothing to further that goal.

Sincerely,

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